



SHOULDER-A-COFFIN
KURO
2

SATOKO KIYUDUKI



"Wow. The 'outside world' is amazing."

The sight was the grandest thing the children had witnessed on their journey so far.



Girl

Cho: air delivery service

Traveler

Kei: a wanderer

C h a r a c t e r s

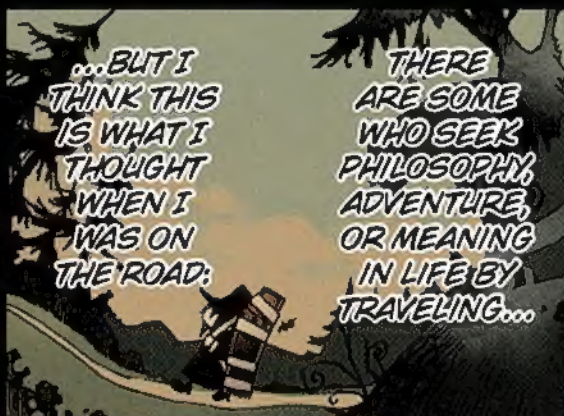
Shoulder-a-Coffin Kuro

Sen:
a bat

Sanju: a child

Kuro:
a traveler

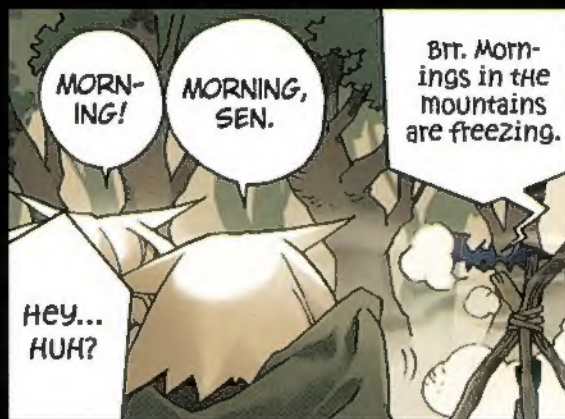
Nijuku: a child





KURO!
THE GIRLS!
wings!!
THEY HAVE
wings!!

YOU'RE
AWFULLY
ROWDY.
WHAT'S
WRONG?



MORN-
ING!

MORNING,
SEN.

BIT. Morn-
ings in the
mountains
are freezing.

HEY...
HUH?



WHY are
YOU SO
CALM!?

OH,
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

"WINGS"?



DIFFER-
ENT?

YOU GIRLS
LOOK
DIFFERENT
TODAY.



...THEY
WERE ABLE
TO TURN
INTO MICE.

WHEN I
FIRST
MET
THEM...

HUH?
OH YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT.



...ears...

OH, I KNOW.
YOU GUYS
ARE MISSING
YOUR CAT...



THAT'S
THE STORY
OF THE CAT
WHO WORE
BOOTS.

And then
they were
eaten by a
cat, right?

THAT'S
WHY THEY
LOOK LIKE
THAT!

BESIDES,
YOU
WEREN'T
THERE
THAT
TIME.



?

WHAT
THE?

WHAT THE
HECK ARE
THOSE!?



FLY!
FLY!



LIM, WE
WERE
LOOKING
AT THAT.

YEAH.

YOU
CREATED
THOSE
WINGS
YOUR-
SELVES?



It's not
going to
happen.

BOTH ARE
TRYING SO
HARD WITH
ONLY ONE
WING.



YEAH.

THAT?

WE
WANT TO
FLY LIKE
THAT.

OH, A
HAWK.



SHE'S
LIKE A
CHICKEN
THAT HAD
ITS HEAD
CUT OFF.

LOOK AT
NIJUKU.



WE
WANTED
TO FLY
BEFORE.

AND WE
REMEM-
BERED.

WE TOLD
PROFESSOR,
AND HE
GAVE US
"WINGS."



...SHE'S
MORE LIKE
A WEATHER-
VANE THAN
A BIRD.

And
sanJU...

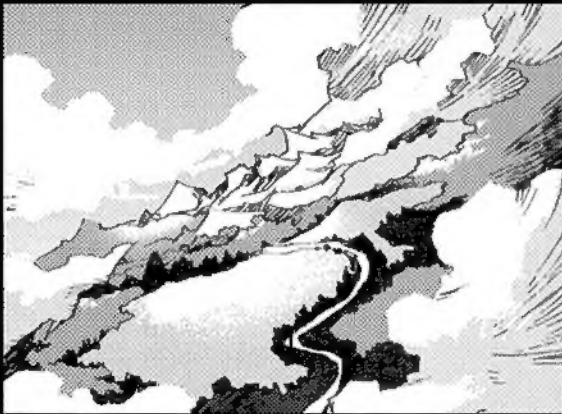
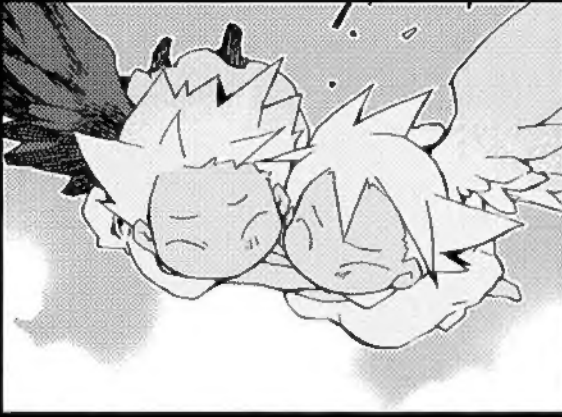


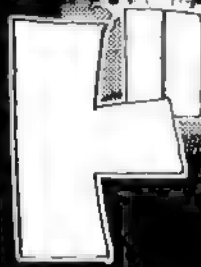
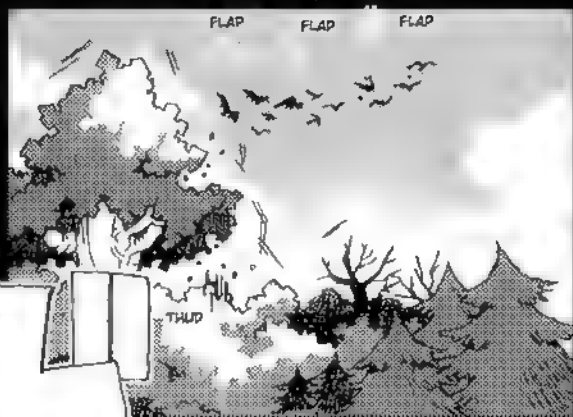
THAT'S
USELESS.

BUT
WE ONLY
HAD ONE
EACH.













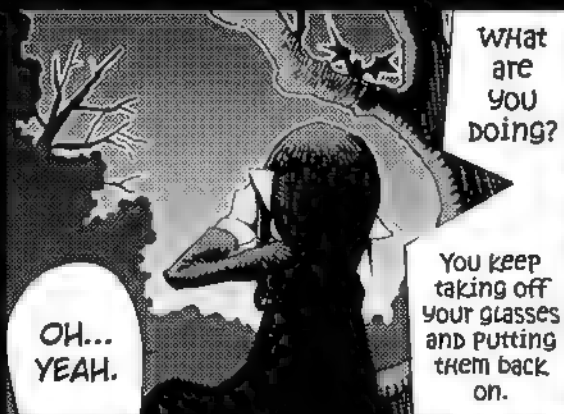
I KEEP
WALK-
ING AND
WALKING.

I KEEP
WALK-
ING THE
ENDLESS
STREETS.



THE
WORLD
IS AS
BIG AS
IT WAS
BEFORE.

THE
JOURNEY
IS TOUGH
LIKE
BEFORE.



What
are
you
doing?

OH...
YEAH.

You keep
taking off
your glasses
and putting
them back
on.



BUT
MAYBE...



...AND
ENDLESS,
EH?

THE
WORLD
IS BIG...



...WITH
THESE
"HALF"
WINGS.

...SOME-
THING
FEELS
LIGHTER...



...BY
LOOKING AT
IT THROUGH
THESE
GLASSES.

PERHAPS
I...

...FORGOT
ABOUT HOW
BIG THIS
WORLD IS...

You didn't sell that?

What's up?

Why?

HMM... I CAN'T REALLY SAY WHY.

...BUT I KEPT THIS.

I SOLD THE LENS AND THE CHAIN...

...SO THAT I CAN FINISH THIS JOURNEY...

...WHILE I'M STILL WHO I AM.

I WANT TO...

...BECOME SMARTER FASTER THAN NORMAL...

...TAKE A SHORTCUT TO ADULTHOOD WITH THINGS LIKE THESE.

BUT I THOUGHT I COULD...

How's the coffin coming along?

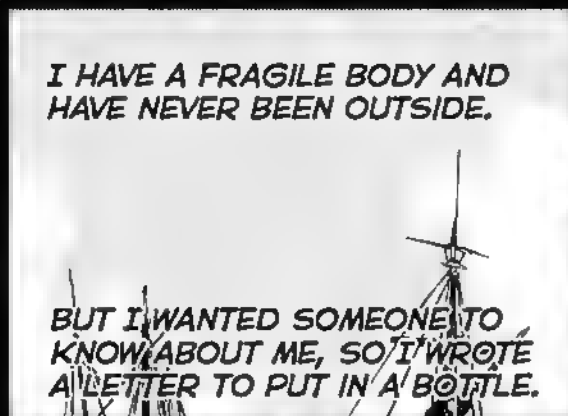
IT'S EASIER TO CARRY NOW...

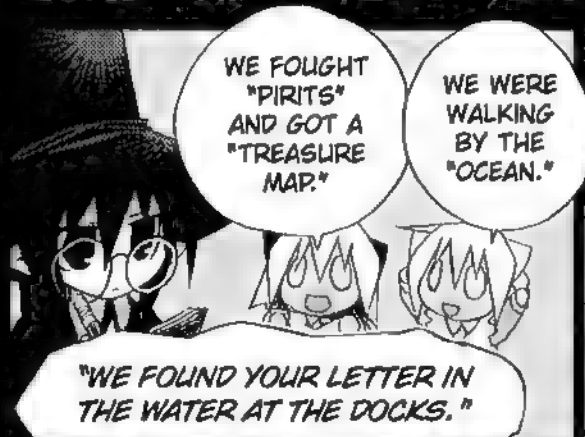
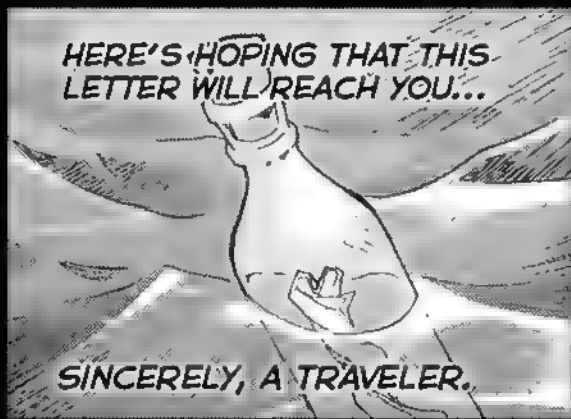
...BUT IT'S STILL HEAVY...

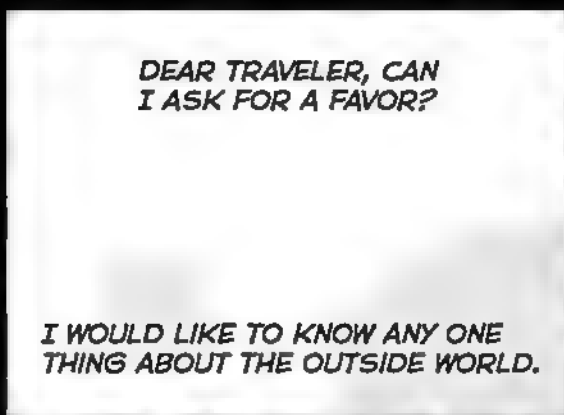
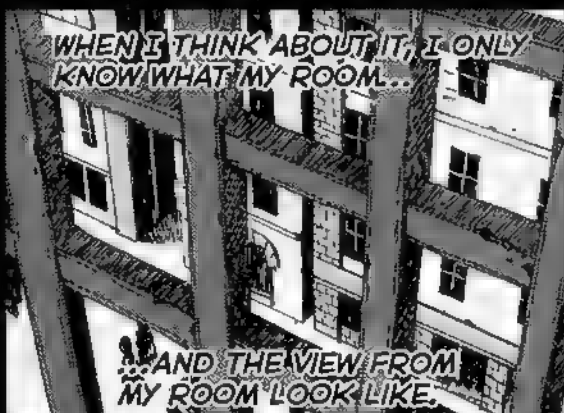
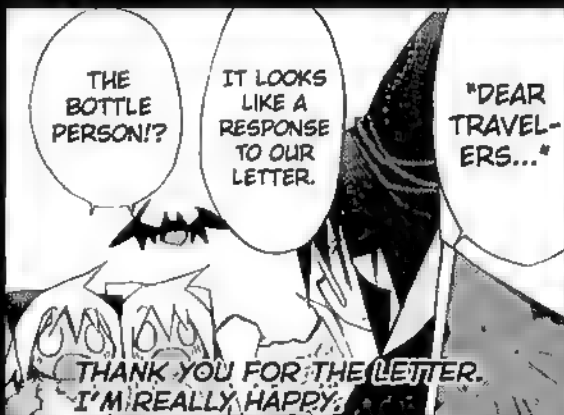
YEAH.

Then let's go.















...WHEN
A LADY
ASKED
ME FOR
SOME-
THING.

I WAS DO-
ING BUSI-
NESS IN A
PLACE A
FEW DAYS
AGO...



YEAH.

SHE
LIKED
IT!

THAT'S
FINE,
BUT...



CAN YOU
PLEASE
BECOME
HER PEN
PAL?

MY MAS-
TER IS
LONELY
AND
LOOKING
FOR A
FRIEND.

I TOOK
THE JOB
BECAUSE
I WANTED
MONEY.



I'M
TALKING
TO YOU.

...ARE YOU
PLANNING TO
FOLLOW US
AS LONG AS
OUR LETTERS
CONTINUE?



SO I GOT
LAZY AND
THREW
AWAY THE
BOTTLE.

BUT I
DON'T
KNOW
HOW TO
WRITE.



UGH!!
YOU!!

HEY,
LONG
TIME NO
SEE!

I'M
AMAZED
YOU NO-
TICED.



What
bad
luck we
had...

YOU GUYS
PICKED IT
UP AND
TOOK IT
WITH YOU.

AND
JUST MY
LUCK.



IF YOU
KNEW,
WHY
DIDN'T
YOU TELL
ME?

WHOA,
YOU
KNEW
FROM
THEN?!

I SAW
YOUR MO-
TORCYCLE
MANY
TIMES.

EVER
SINCE THE
DOCKS.



I ACTUALLY FEEL GREAT TODAY.

I'M FINE.

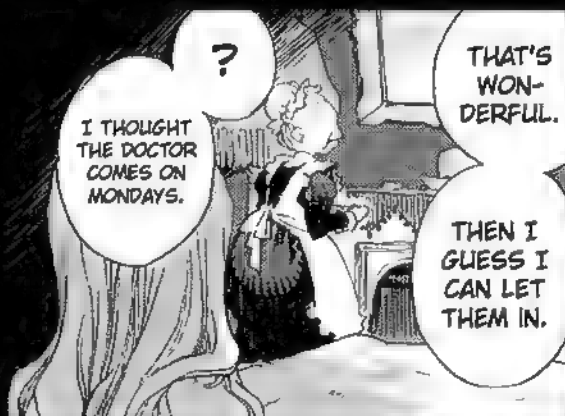
MISS, ARE YOU FEELING WELL ENOUGH TO BE UP?



THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

He's using you again, like always.

HEY, KURO-CHAN.



I THOUGHT THE DOCTOR COMES ON MONDAYS.

?

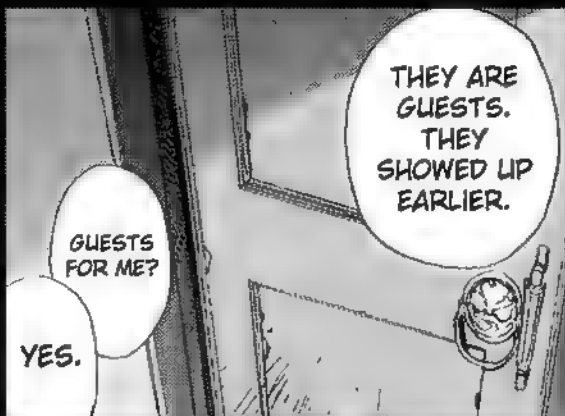
THAT'S WONDERFUL.

THEN I GUESS I CAN LET THEM IN.



THE BOTTLE PERSON IS WAITING.

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT OUR NEXT LETTER?



GUESTS FOR ME?

YES.

THEY ARE GUESTS. THEY SHOWED UP EARLIER.



IF YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE BACK, I'LL DELIVER IT.

OH...

SEE?

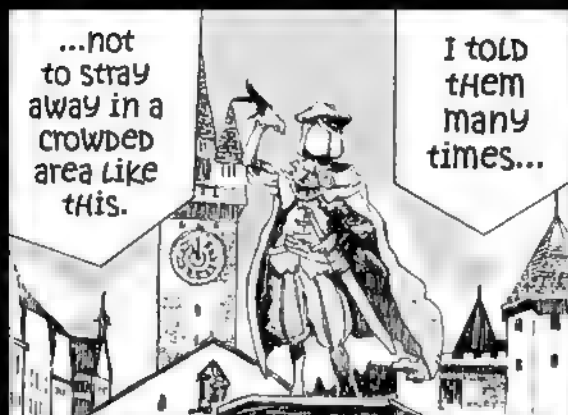


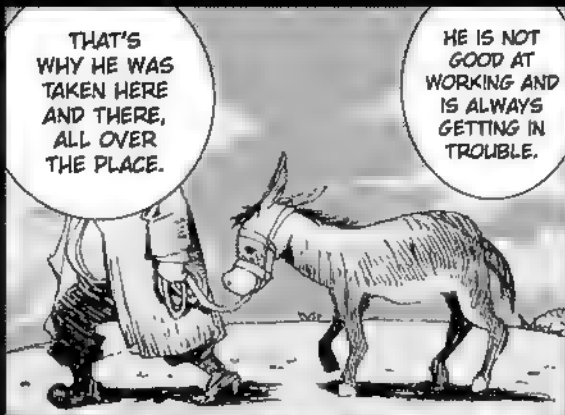
...YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE THEM.

I'M SURE...



WELL, LET'S SEE...







YEAH, HOW ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE?

There's someone in that barley field.



...BUT IF WE FIND "THE BEST PLACE" FOR THIS DONKEY...

WE CAN'T TAKE HIM WITH US...



If you work hard, they might give you barley every day.

That's great.

HLH? YOU LIKE BARLEY?

I'LL GO ASK.



AND WHAT KIND OF PLACE ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

OH GEEZ
YEAH!!

...ALL THREE OF YOU ARE GOING TO BE SATISFIED, RIGHT?



GOOD LUCK!!

IF YOU CAN CARRY THIS, I'LL GIVE YOU A STACK OF BARLEY.

CAN YOU BRING THE DONKEY OVER HERE?



BUT SINCE THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...

HE REALLY WANTS TO GO BACK TO HIS MOM.



It doesn't seem like he's compromising at all.

WELL, WE'LL DO OUR BEST.

...WHERE HE CAN EAT A LOT AND WORK A LITTLE.

...HE WOULD SETTLE FOR A PLACE...

AND A PLACE WHERE HE WOULD BE PETTED ON THE NOSE.





THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A PROMISED ENDING.

I'M SURE THIS DONKEY FEELS LIKE THAT PRINCE.

THAT'S TRUE.



HOW ABOUT THAT BIG HOUSE?

NAH, I DON'T THINK SO.



KURO-CHAN! SEN!!

THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'D GIVE YOU UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FROM THE BEGINNING.

A FAIRY TALE IS SO UN-REALISTIC.

I WANT TO BE PART OF THAT FAIRY TALE WORLD TOO



WE'LL GO ASK.

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

THEY WON'T CARE FOR A DONKEY.

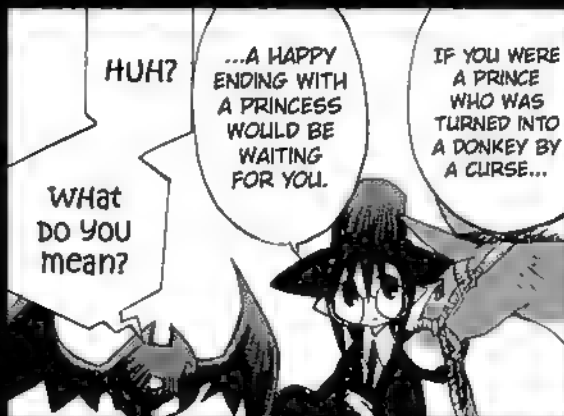
IF THEY'RE RICH, THEY WOULD GET A COW OR A HORSE.



!! ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

THEY WOULD KEEP THE DONKEY INSIDE THE HOUSE!

THAT HOUSE LIKES ANIMALS!!



HUH?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...A HAPPY ENDING WITH A PRINCESS WOULD BE WAITING FOR YOU.

IF YOU WERE A PRINCE WHO WAS TURNED INTO A DONKEY BY A CURSE...



GO BACK THERE AND TELL THEM THE DEAL'S OFF!!

YEAH! WHEN WE LOOKED INSIDE THE HOUSE...

...THERE WERE MANY ANIMALS LIVING THERE!



AND HE TRAVELS TO SEEK THE PERSON WHO WOULD TRULY LOVE HIM.

A WITCH PUTS A CURSE ON A PRINCE AND HE TURNS INTO A DONKEY.

IT'S A FAIRY TALE FROM SOMEWHERE.



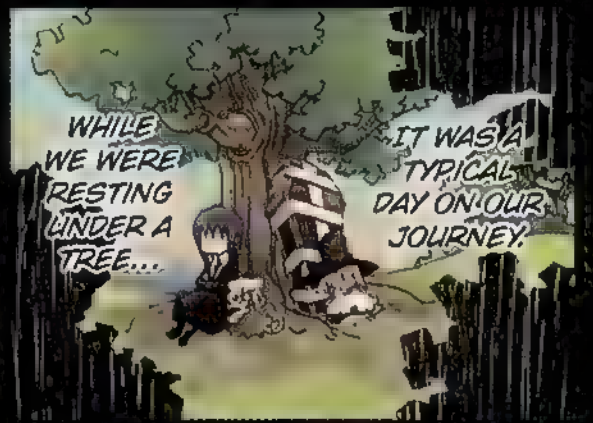


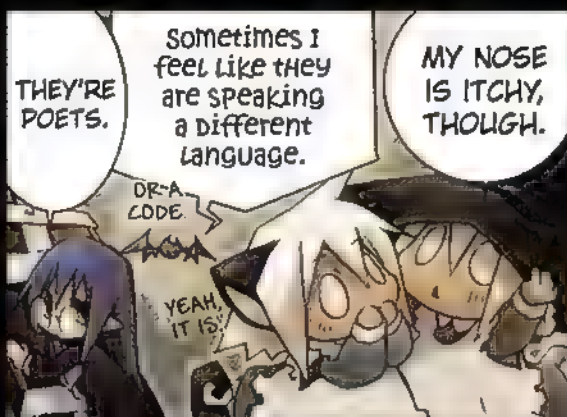
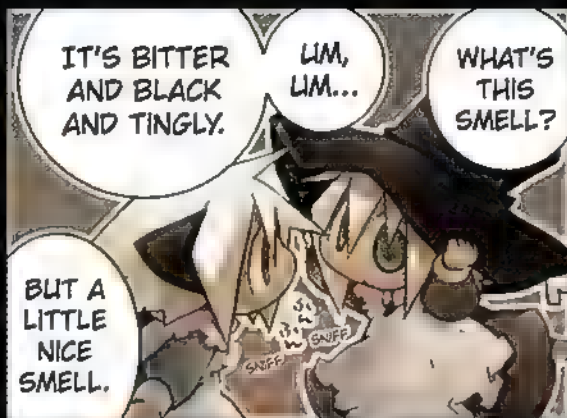
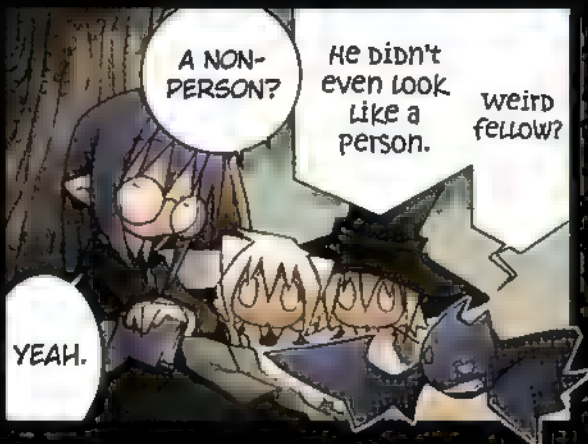
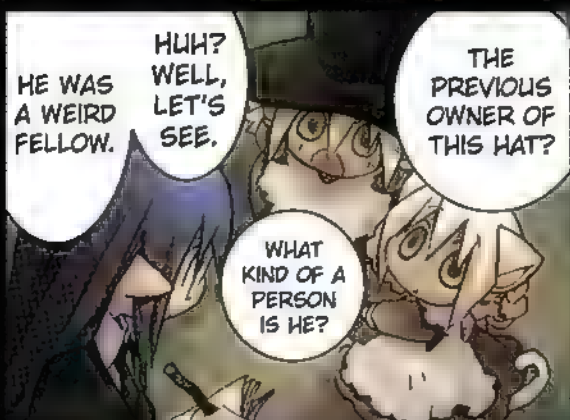
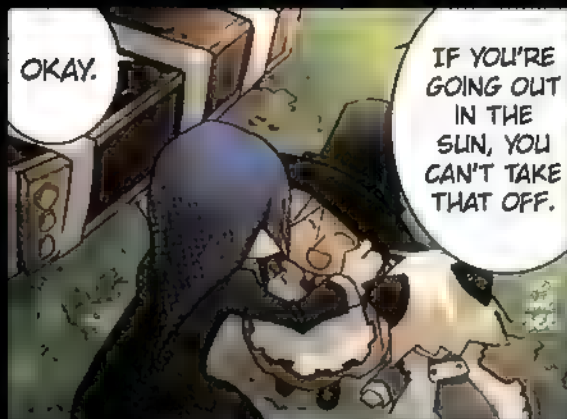
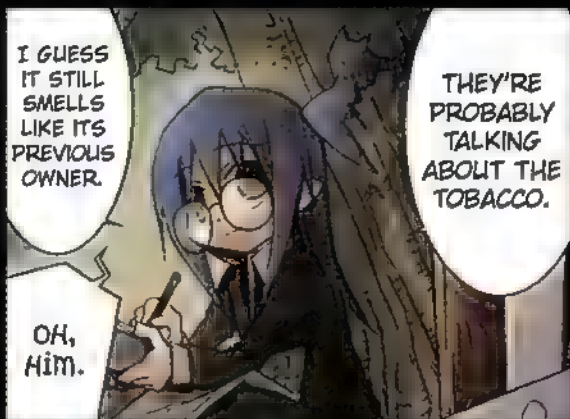




To walk into an unknown town and to meet unknown people—
it's what happens when you travel.

But it was not that easy for the young traveler to accept this.





You Have
the bad
Habit of
giving up
easily.

Then let's
decide with
the first
person we see
when we turn
that corner.

NO ONE
WILL
LISTEN
TO ME.

SEN,
FORGET
IT.

HUH?
AND?
YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR THIS
WITCH?

A WITCH
THAT
USES
BLACK
MAGIC?



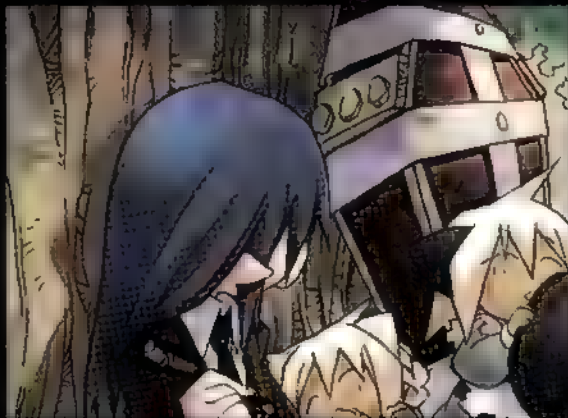
"IF THAT
PERSON
ALSO TELLS
US TO GO
SOMEWHERE
ELSE..."

"...WE'LL
LEAVE THIS
TOWN."



NEVER
HEARD OF
HER. TRY
ASKING
SOMEONE
ELSE.

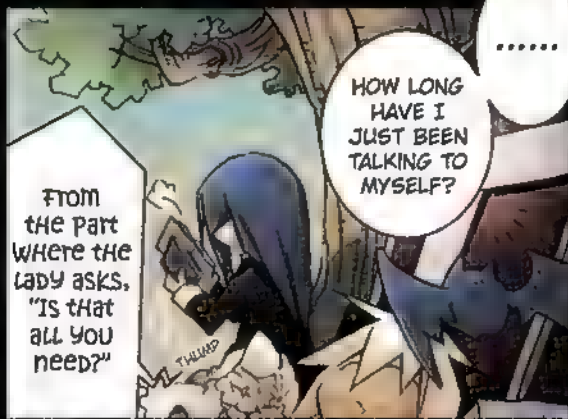
.....



DON'T
KNOW ANY.
TRY SOME-
WHERE
ELSE.

...A
PLACE
TO
REST...

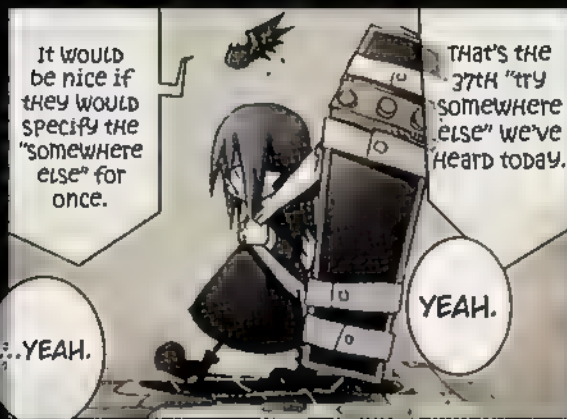
IS THAT
ALL YOU
NEED?



From
the part
where the
lady asks,
"Is that
all you
need?"

HOW LONG
HAVE I
JUST BEEN
TALKING TO
MYSELF?

.....

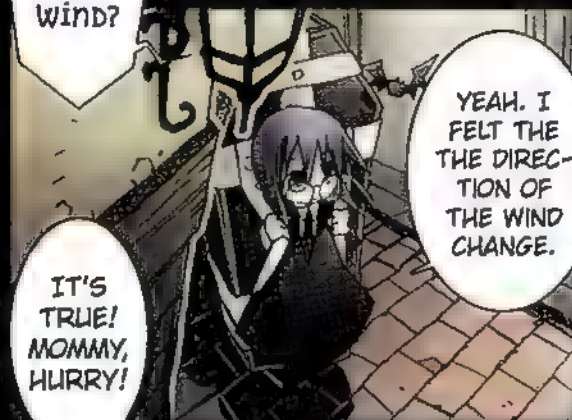
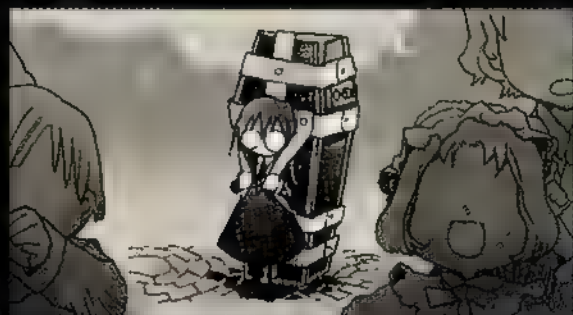
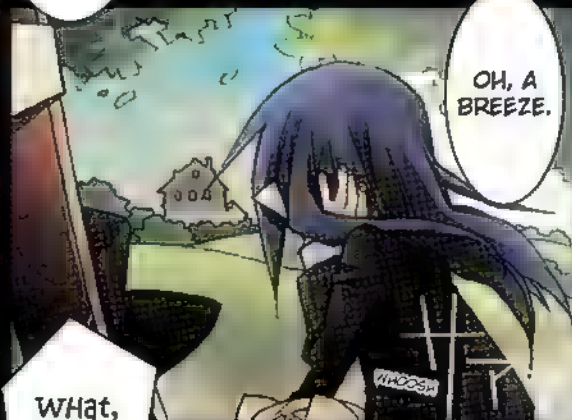
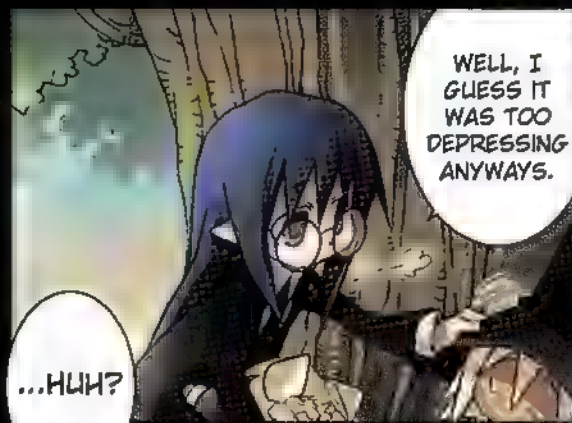


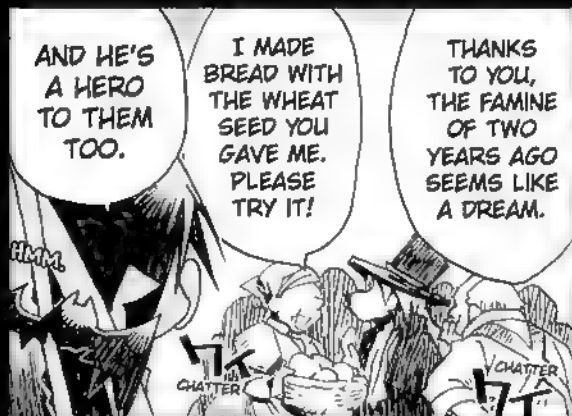
It would
be nice if
they would
specify the
"somewhere
else" for
once.

That's the
37th "try
somewhere
else" we've
heard today.

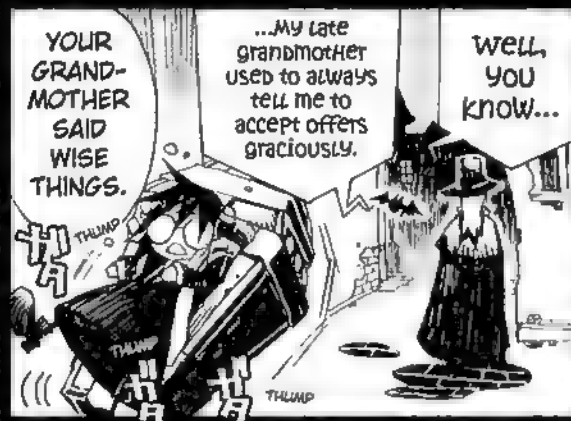
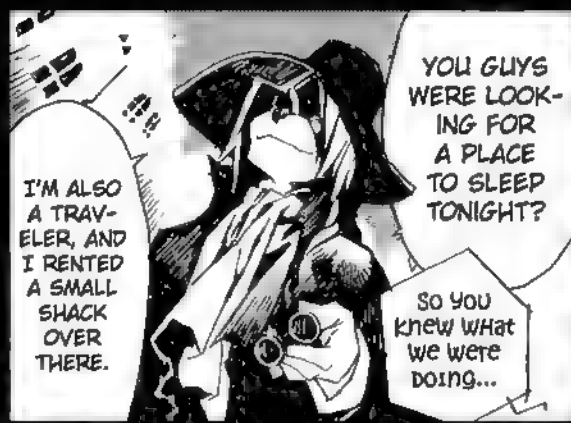
YEAH.

...YEAH.









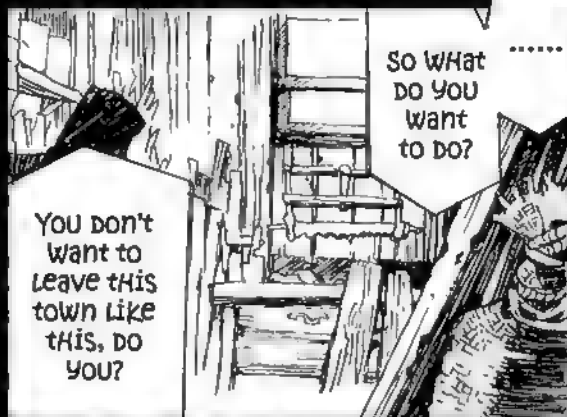






...THE
NICEST
PERSON
WAS AN
"OUT-
SIDER."

IN THE
END,
IN THIS
TOWN...



SO WHAT
DO YOU
WANT TO
DO?

.....

You don't
want to
leave this
town like
this, do
you?



...A MYST-
ERIOUS
INCIDENT
OCCURRED.

AND
THAT
NIGHT..



THE "bet"
is still
on, you
know.

And
maybe
that guy
would
know
about the
"witch."



...HE
SMELLED
SOME
BLOOD...

HEY,
OLD MAN.
DON'T
SLEEP
HERE.

AC-
CORD-
ING TO
A WIT-
NESS
WHO
SAW
PART
OF THE
INCIDENT...

HUH?



we're
going to
try to ask
about it
tomorrow.

listen.

OKAY.

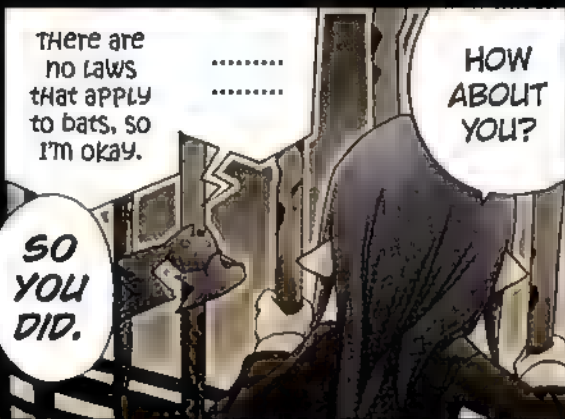
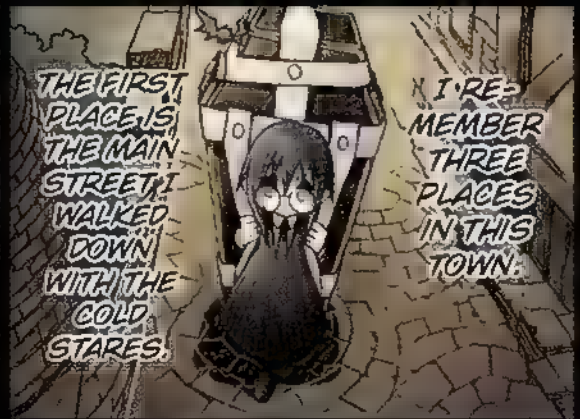


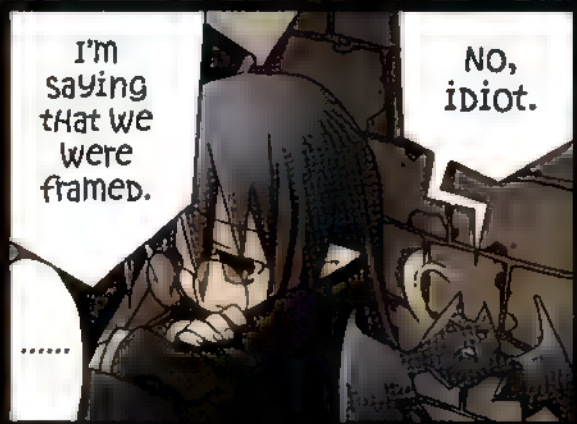
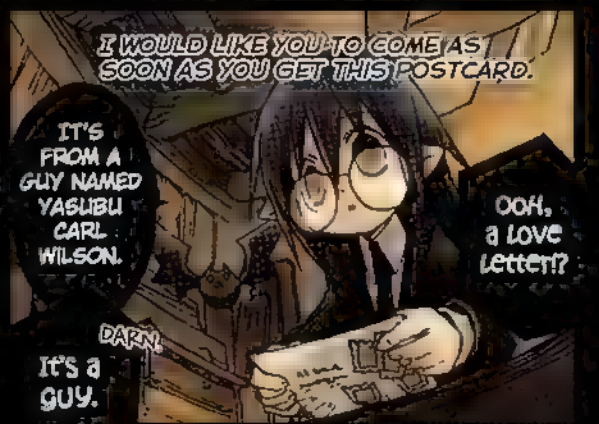
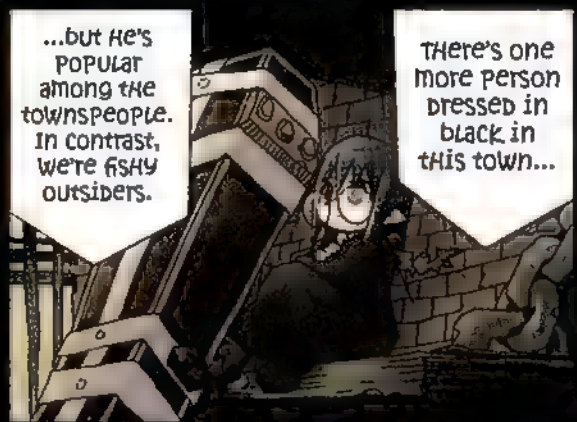
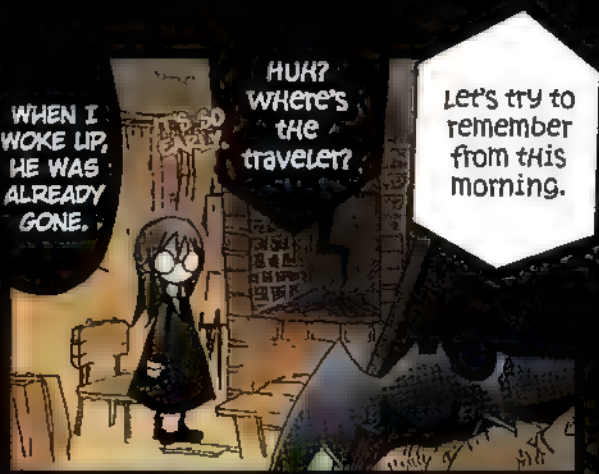
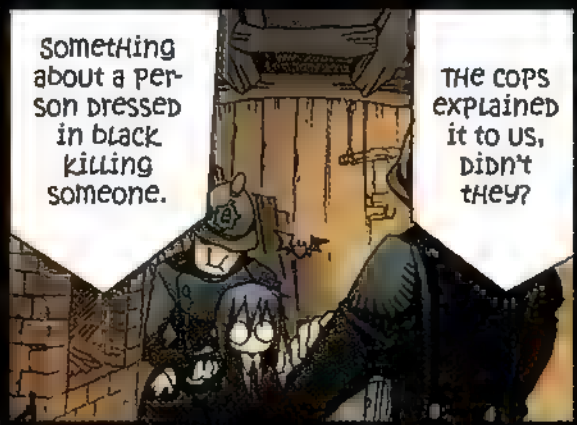
...WHO
RAN
AWAY.

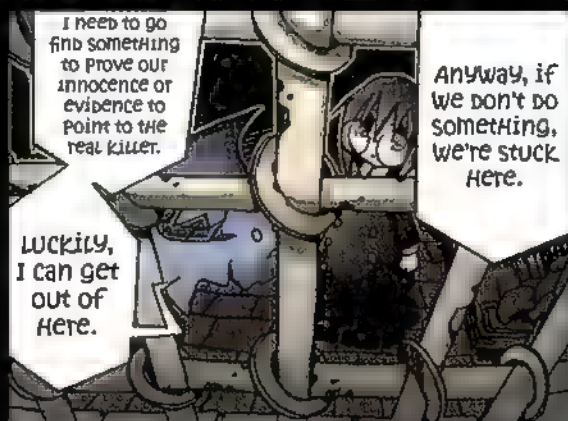
...AND
SAW
"SOME-
ONE" IN
BLACK...



.....







I need to go find something to prove our innocence or evidence to point to the real killer.

Anyway, if we don't do something, we're stuck here.

Luckily, I can get out of here.



HUH?

HEY, COME OUT.

YOU'RE FREE TO GO.



Can you release all of the bats?

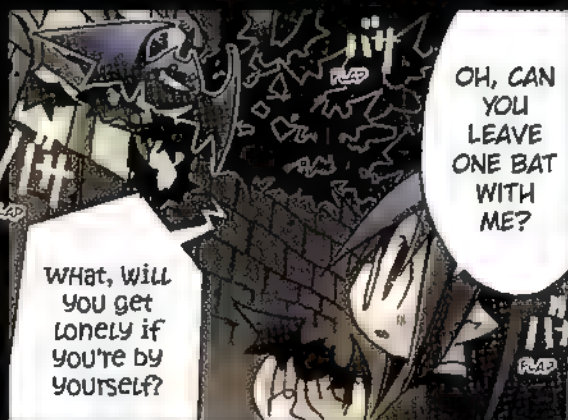
So this postcard is our clue, eh?



HUH?
NO.

SEN FOUND EVIDENCE ALREADY?

I MEAN, DID A BAT COME FOR ME?



OH, CAN YOU LEAVE ONE BAT WITH ME?

What, will you get lonely if you're by yourself?

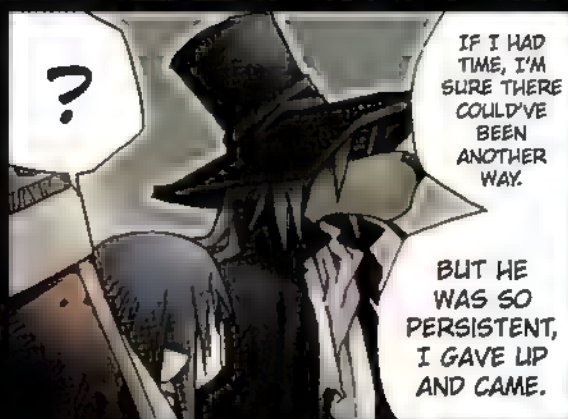
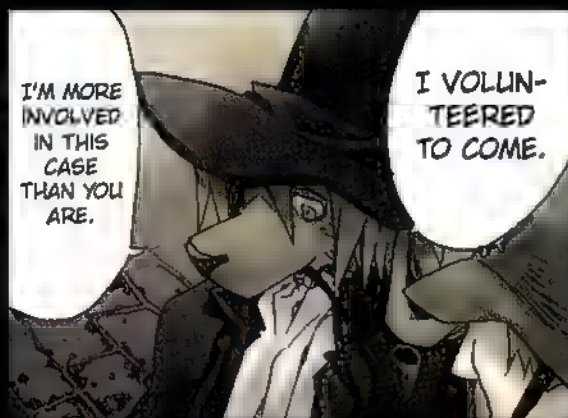
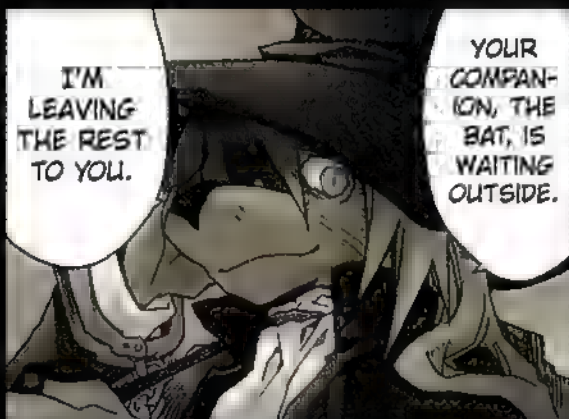


THE REAL CULPRIT CONFESSED.



You've got some nerve.

NO, I DON'T WANT YOU TO DITCH ME.





He heard about the case and thought it was fishy.

I saw the traveler near Yasubu's House.



NO WONDER. THAT OUTFIT...

OH MY!

I HEAR THE CULPRIT WAS THE BLACK TRAVELER.

THAT'S WHY I SAID WE SHOULDN'T TRUST OUTSIDERS.



SO HE CONFESSED TO GET ME OUT.

SO I ASKED HIM TO LET YOU OFF THE HOOK.

BUT WE GOT INVOLVED.



SEN!

OH, THERE YOU ARE.



ACTUALLY, I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN ANY MORE TROUBLE.

HELP ME SAVE HIM!

WE HAVE TO HELP HIM.

I'M TIRED OF FLYING AROUND.



...FOR THE TRAVELER, NOT US.

THE FRAME WAS SET UP...

WHAT'S GOING ON? I DON'T GET IT.



Okay!! I'll DO it!!

BRING IT ON!!

I'LL LET YOU GO TO THE BAR IN THE NEXT TOWN!!

AND YOU CAN STAY OUT UNTIL MORNING!



That's the guy.

He planned to call for the traveler to come here and frame him.

You saw the Yasubu guy who sent the postcard, right?



SEN!
LOOK,
BLACK
CLOTHES.

What!?



It's
fine.

IS THIS
HOUSE
OKAY?

HURRY
and go in.
Someone's
going to
see us.

NO
ONE'S
HERE?



Yep.

But even
if we know
that, we
can't do
anything.

SO IT
REALLY
WAS
HIM.



HE SCRAP-
BOOKS THE
NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES
REGARDING
THE TOWN.

It's a
room that
screams
"Justice"
and
"Loyalty."



Even if
we speak
the same
language
and have
the same
culture...

...their
logic
works
differ-
ently.

BECAUSE
WE'RE
TRAVEL-
ERS?



WHY? I
THINK
HE'S A
GOOD
COP.

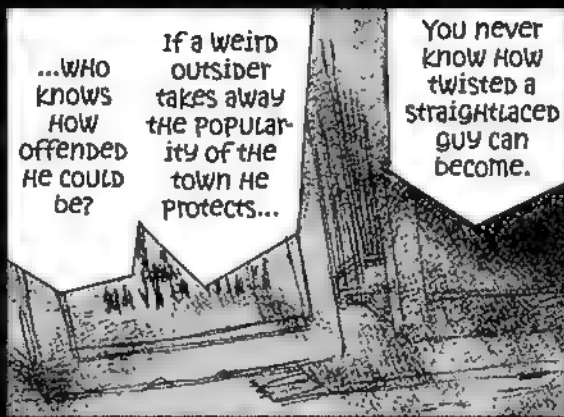
I see. A guy
like this
is likely
to commit
a crime.



Hey,
where
are you
going?

BUT
STILL...

...WE
WON'T
KNOW
UNLESS
WE TRY!!



...WHO
KNOWS
HOW
OFFENDED
HE COULD
BE?

If a weird
outsider
takes away
the popular-
ity of the
town he
protects...

You never
know how
twisted a
straightlaced
guy can
become.









WELL,
THE WIND
CHANGED.

I
SHOULD
GET
GOING.



...I
EVER
SEE YOU
AGAIN!?

WILL...



DIDN'T
YOU WANT
TO ASK
ME ABOUT
SOME-
THING?

OH
YEAH.



OF
COURSE.



...HUH?

WHAT'D
YOU
SAY?

THAT'S
RIGHT!

I WANTED
TO ASK
ABOUT
A BLACK
WITCH...



IF WE'RE
BOTH
ALIVE AND
TRAVELING,
WE'LL SEE
EACH OTHER
AGAIN.

THE WORLD
IS ALWAYS
CONNECTED.



A
WITCH...



WHEN WE WEAR IT, IT TURNS DARK.

YOUR HAT IS BIG.

THAT'S RIGHT. HALF OF THE SCENERY IS BLOCKED.



SOMETIMES I THINK IT WAS A DREAM.

HE WAS A REALLY MYSTERIOUS PERSON.

Yeah, I remember him.

He was a traveler but didn't have any luggage.



OR THE FIRST SHINY-SHINY THERE?

SO YOU CAN'T SEE THE SKY?

NOT REALLY.



YEAH, WE RESTED TOO LONG. WE SHOULD GET GOING.

THE WIND DIED.



BUT...



OH, THEY'RE FINALLY AWAKE.

MMM.

NNN.

How many hours were you sleeping?



...IF I CAN LOOK UP WHEN I WANT TO.

...IT'S PERFECT AS IT IS...



Hurry and take that hat away from her.

IT'S ALREADY NIGHTTIME.









Let's find the others, quickly.

WELL, WE FOUND THE FIRST ONE.



I'm Half Glad...

OH, IT'S JUST A LEAF.

...and sort of disappointed.



THIS NEVER HAPPENED.

I WONDER WHEN THEY GOT OUT OF THE COFFIN?

I'm sure it was because someone left it open.



NO, IT WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING.

UM, DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?

NO, BUT WE CAN'T PLAY TODAY?



I'M GOING TO THE BAR



A BAT?

HAVE YOU SEEN ONE?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A BAT THAT LOOKS LIKE THIS.



HMM...

WELL, I GUESS NIJUKU OR SANJU OPENED IT OR SOMETHING.



YEAH, HE FOUND A TOY IN THE PARK YESTERDAY.

IS THIS DOGGY CARRYING SOMETHING?

I THINK I SAW ONE SOMEWHERE...



Hey, stop
messaging
around.

DOPS.



LOTS OF
STORES.

You and
I went to
the center
of town.

KURO-
CHAN.



...more
than your
silly
riddles.

I want to
solve my
case...

CAN
YOU
SOLVE
IT?

WE'RE
PLAYING
WITH
RID-
DLES.



ACTUALLY,
WE DON'T
HAVE TIME.
NOT NOW.

IT'S
OKAY, I'LL
GIVE YOU
A HINT.

I HAVE
ANOTHER
RIDDLE
FOR YOU.



IT LOOKS
LIKE A SMALL
ANIMAL
WAS INSIDE MY
CLOCK.



IT DOESN'T TALK,
BUT IT'S ALWAYS
SHAKING HANDS
WITH PEOPLE.
WHAT IS IT?



WHAT?

OH NO!!
THERE'S A
LOAD OF
BATS IN THE
KITCHEN!!



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
POINT IT
OUT SO
OBVIOUSLY.

WHERE DO A
BIG PERSON
AND A LITTLE
PERSON CHASE
AFTER EACH
OTHER?



HOLD it.

YOU CAN'T CUT IT EVEN IF YOU USE SCISSORS OR A SWORD.

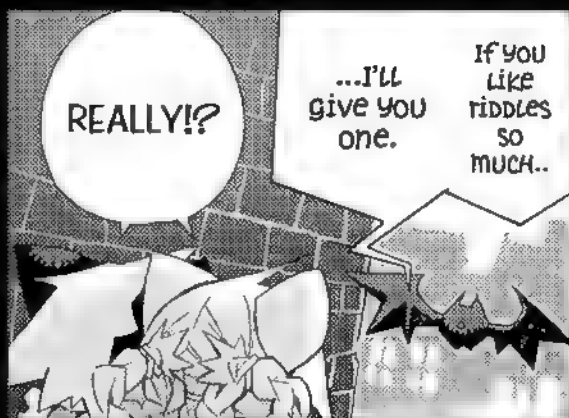
NEXT ONE.



I HOPE WE CAN FIND IT BEFORE IT GETS DARK.

It's already sunset.

I only need one more.



REALLY!?

...I'll give you one.

If you like riddles so much...



OH! DO I see a part of me coming on?

A BIG DISCOVERY!

SEN!!
SEN!!



BUT YOU HIT something. WHAT COULD it be?

YOU didn't use a Hammer or a bat.

WHAT DID WE BREAK?

WHAT IS IT?



...WHICH ONE HAS MORE EARS?

AMONG NIJUKU AND SANJU...

WE JUST THOUGHT OF A GREAT RIDDLE!!



SEN, DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON THOSE TWO.

THE answer is "my nerve."



I THINK IT'S BECAUSE HE ANSWERS THEM THAT THEY KEEP PROVIDING RIDDLES.

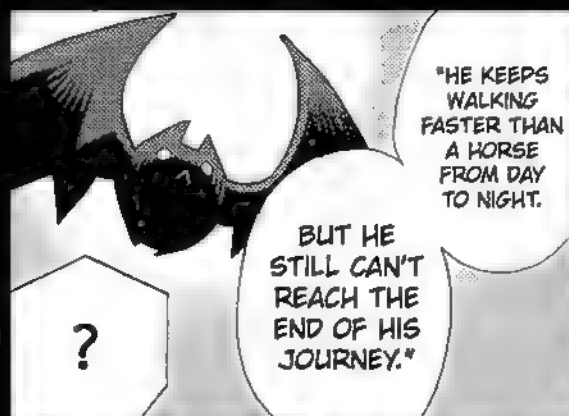
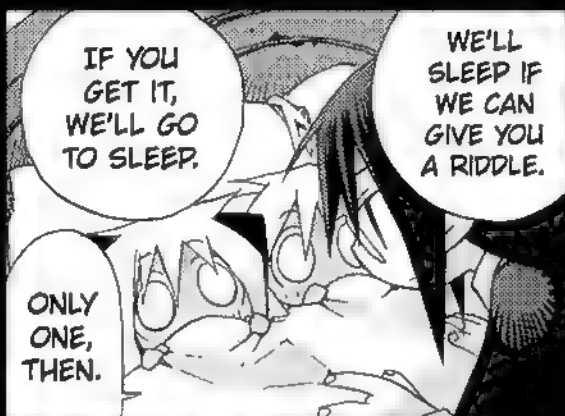
YOU GOT IT!!

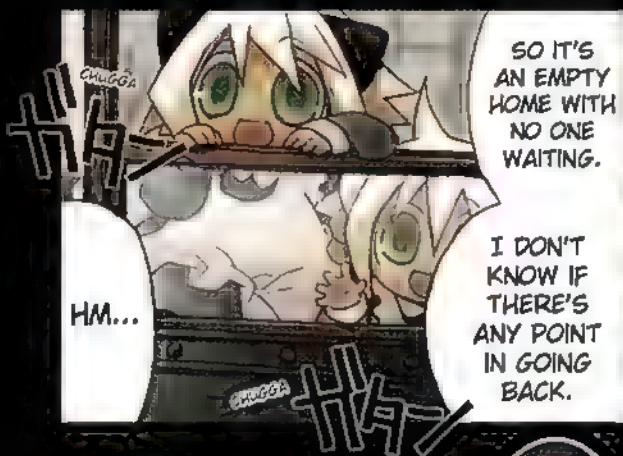
When you convert your name to numbers...

It's SanJu, right?!

...the "3" looks like an ear, right?



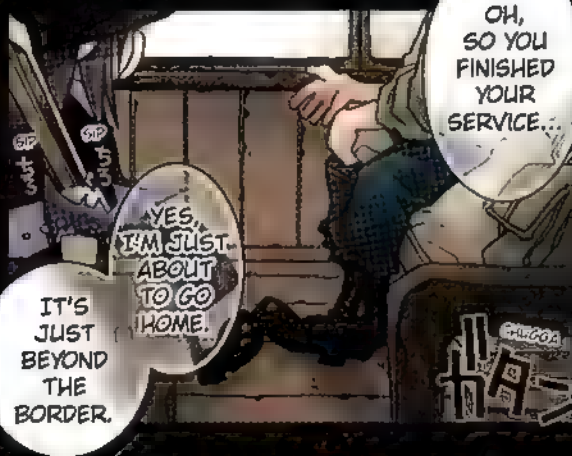




SO IT'S AN EMPTY HOME WITH NO ONE WAITING.

I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S ANY POINT IN GOING BACK.

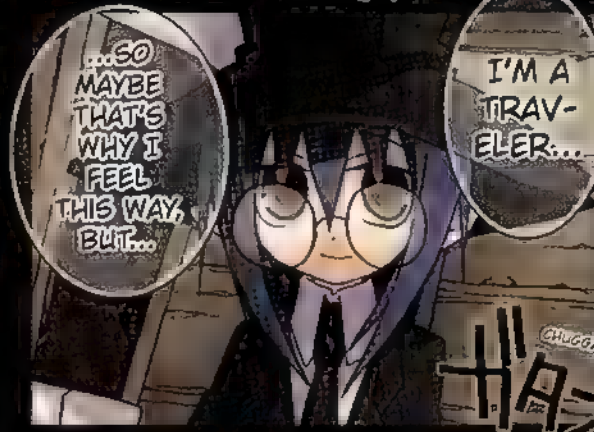
HM...



OH, SO YOU FINISHED YOUR SERVICE...

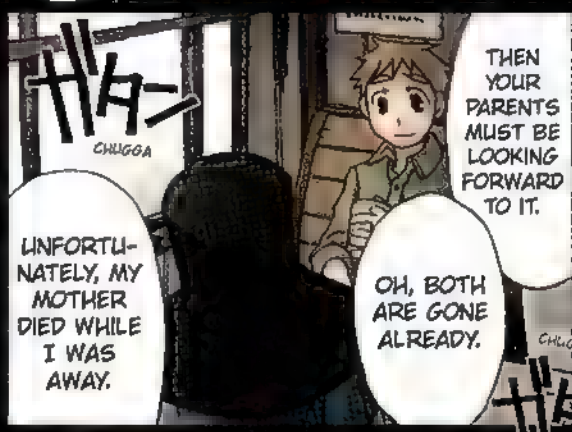
YES, I'M JUST ABOUT TO GO HOME.

IT'S JUST BEYOND THE BORDER.



...SO MAYBE THAT'S WHY I FEEL THIS WAY, BUT...

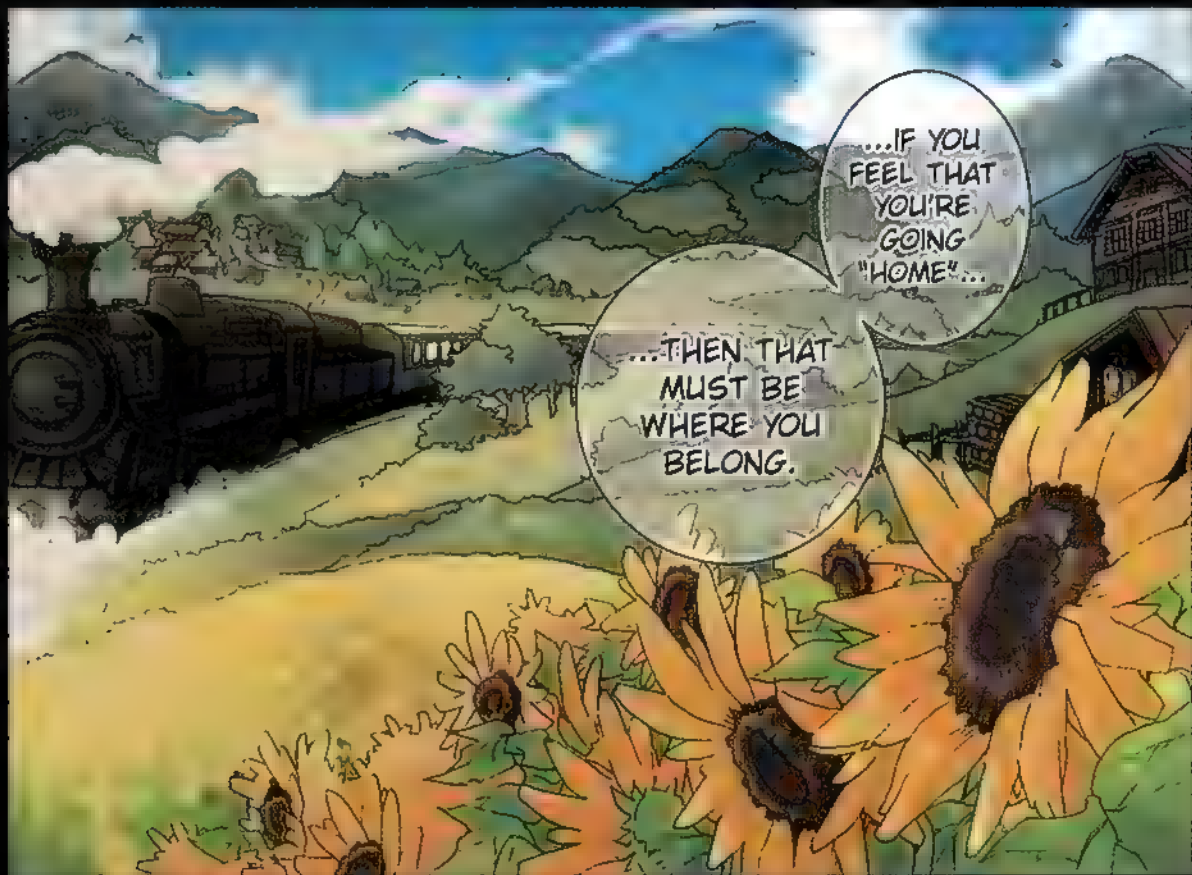
I'M A TRAVELER...



THEN YOUR PARENTS MUST BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

UNFORTUNATELY, MY MOTHER DIED WHILE I WAS AWAY.

OH, BOTH ARE GONE ALREADY.



...IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU'RE GOING "HOME"...

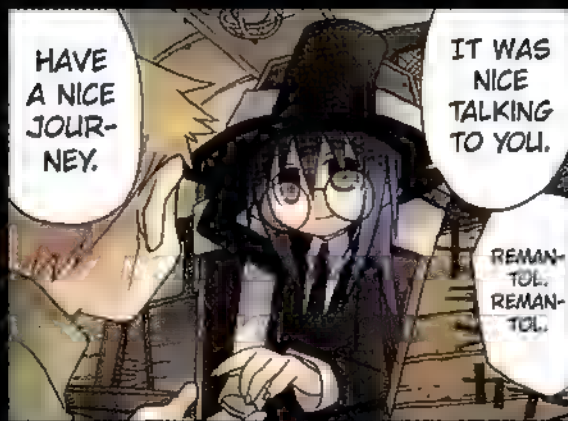
...THEN THAT MUST BE WHERE YOU BELONG.



HUH?

SEN.

WHERE
ARE THE
GIRLS?



HAVE
A NICE
JOUR-
NEY.

IT WAS
NICE
TALKING
TO YOU.

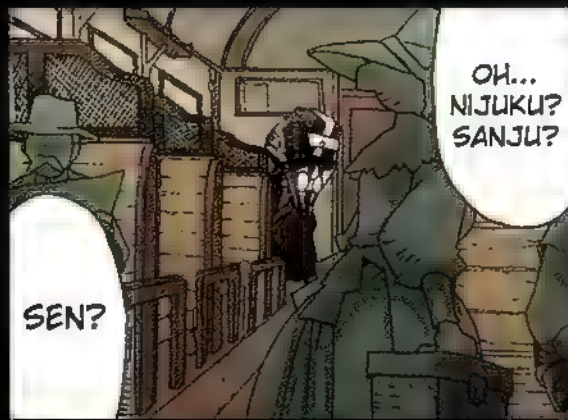
REMAN-
TOL.
REMAN-
TOL.



HUH!?
DOES
THAT
MEAN...

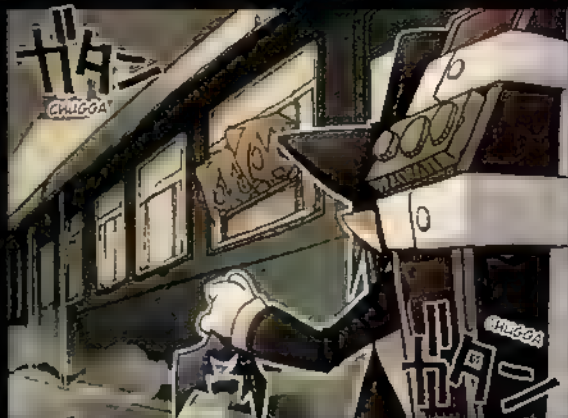
I just
came
outside to
get fresh
air.

KURO-
CHA!



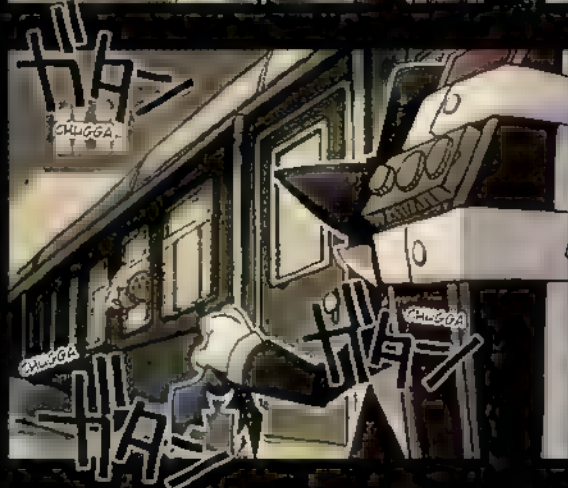
OH...
NIJUKU?
SANJU?

SEN?



CHUGGA

CHUGGA



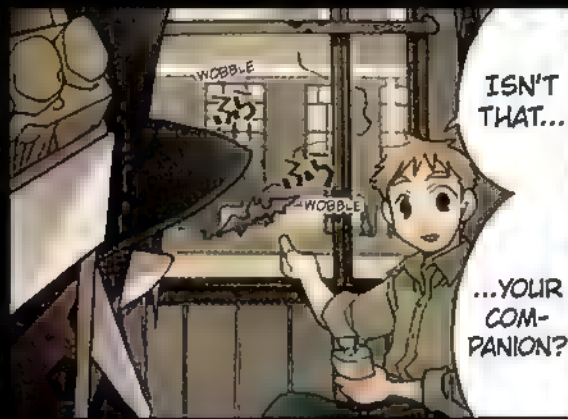
CHUGGA

CHUGGA



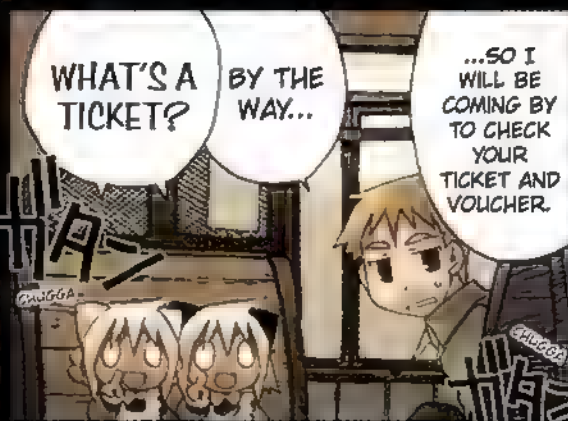
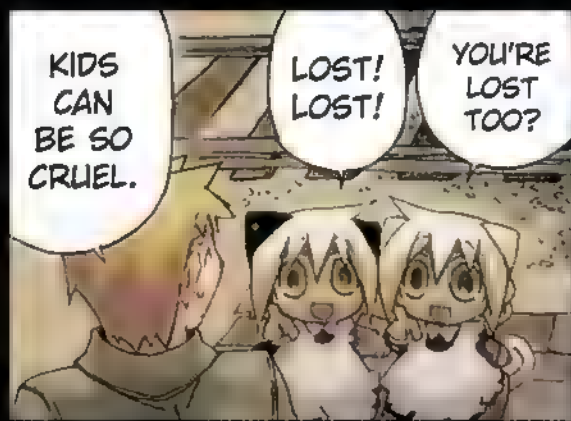
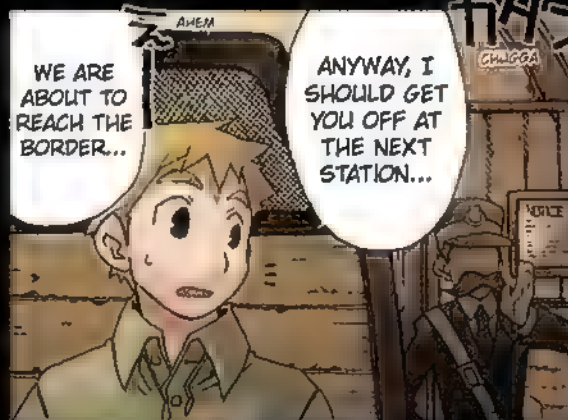
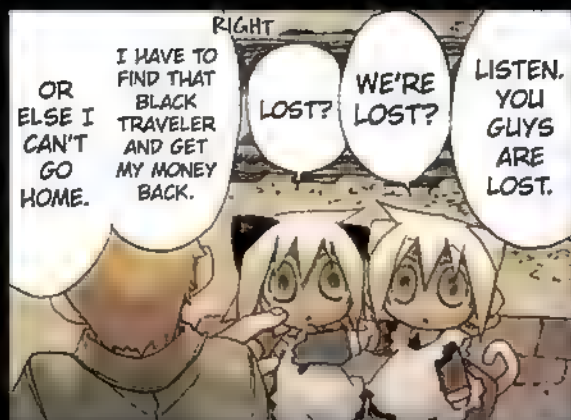
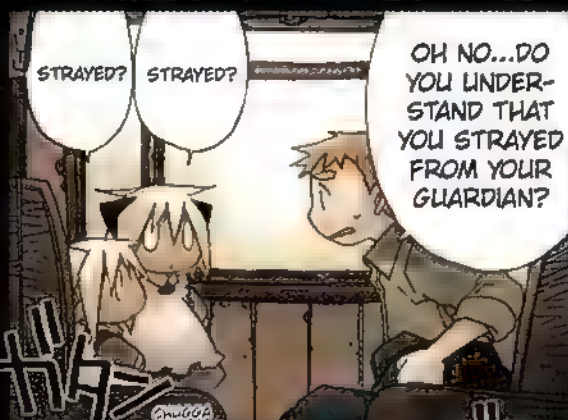
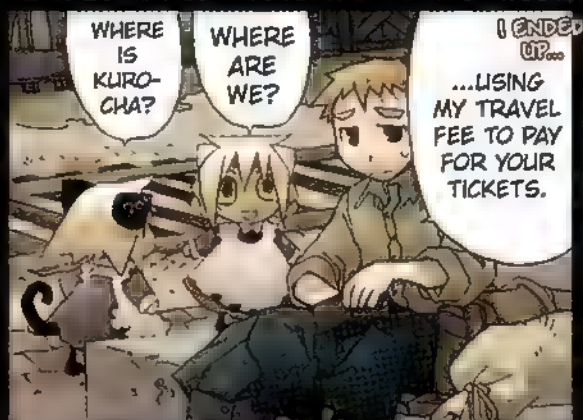
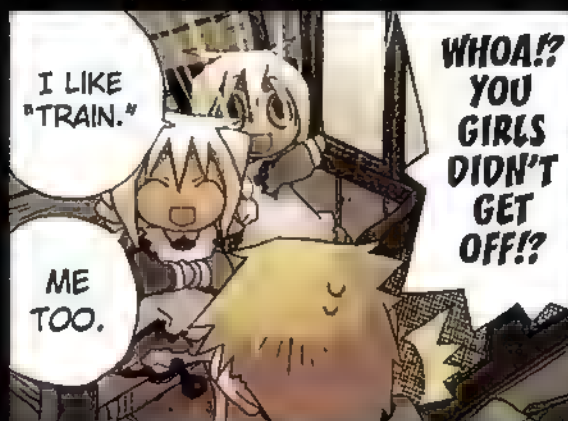
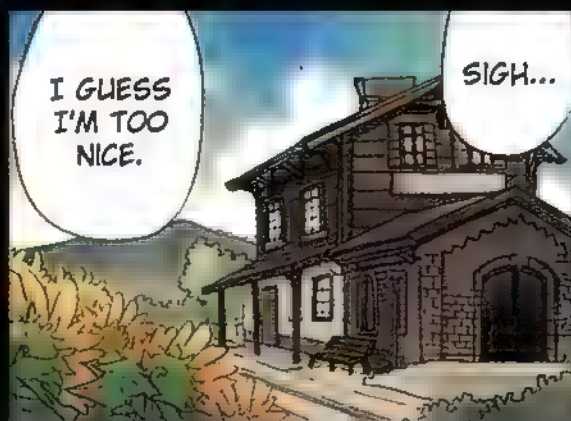
SHEESH. I
TOLD HIM
TO LOOK
OUT FOR
THE TWO.

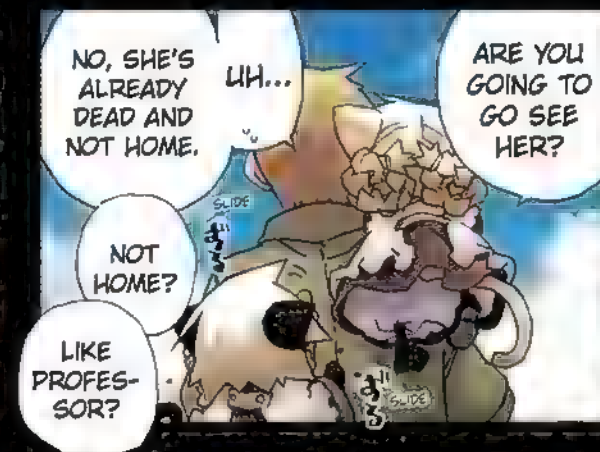
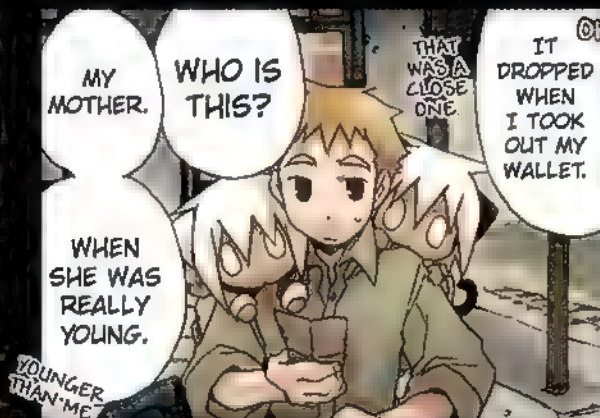
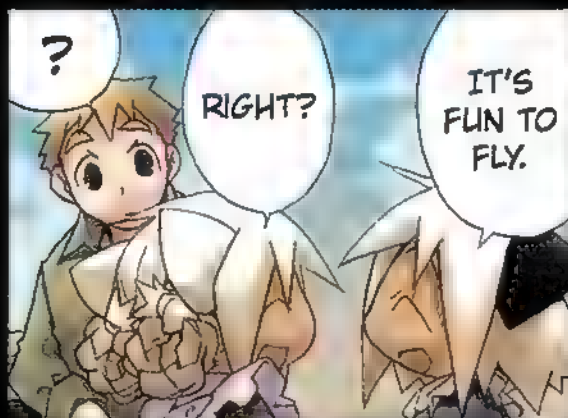
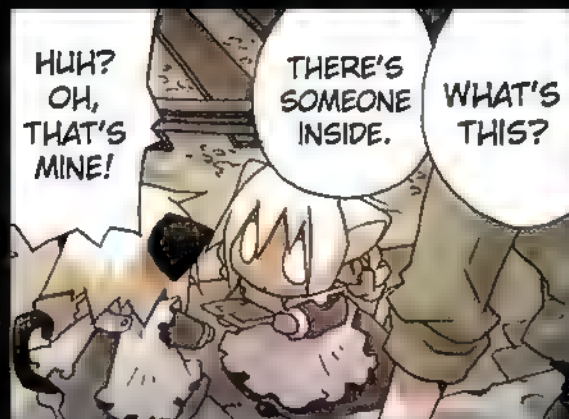
THAT'S
WHY I
ALLOWED
THE
WHISKEY.



ISN'T
THAT...

...YOUR
COM-
PANION?







I'LL BE BACK WHEN THIS FLOWER BLOOMS AGAIN.

IT'S ONLY 12 MONTHS.

BUT IT'LL BE LONELY WITHOUT YOU HERE.

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE RIGHT.



AREN'T YOU LEAVING FOR SERVICE TOMORROW?

MOM, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME.



YOU NEVER HAVE GIRLS IN YOUR LIFE.

...I'LL FIND YOU A WIFE!

THEN BY THE TIME YOU COME BACK...



OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'M LEAVING, AND THAT'S WHY I CAME.

WELL, I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO GIVE YOU TOO.

THE FLOWERS YOU LIKE WERE BLOOMING TOO.



DON'T WORRY. I KNOW YOUR TYPE.

AND I DON'T WANT YOU MAKING THE DECISION...

I DON'T NEED ONE!!



IT'S A PICTURE OF WHEN I WAS THE PRETTIEST.

IT'S ALL WORN OUT.

WHAT'S THIS OLD PICTURE?

TAKE IT AS A LUCKY CHARM.



I JUST NEED TO FIND SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE ME.

RIGHT?



I THOUGHT DAD DIED IN THE WAR.

HEY.

YOUR FATHER KEPT IT UNTIL THE END TOO.

SOME WOULD ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.

WOULDN'T IT BE SAD LIES?





YEAH, I'M
SURE THE
TRAVELER
NOTICED
THAT.

WOULD
THEY
FIND US?



OKAY.

HERE
GOES
THE
FIRST
SHOT.



HUH?
 YOU HAVE
 ANOTHER
 GUARDIAN?

THAT
BAT?

THERE'S
ONE
MORE.

NOT
JUST
KURO-
CHAN.



PELWILLIV



THE
PERSON
YOU WERE
LOOKING
FOR.

NOT
FOR
US.



**WHERE
DID IT
COME
FROM?**

**WHAT
WAS
THAT!?**

HAHA.
DON'T
WORRY.

LOOK
AT THE
SKY.



**SHE'S
LOST IN
THE SKY,
RIGHT?**

**SHE'S IN
THE SKY,
RIGHT?**



IT'S THE
SOUND OF
THE FLOWER
BLOOMING
IN THE SKY.

BANK



WHAT IS ALL OF THIS?

SEN CAME!

IT'S SEN.

there you are. I finally found you two.



...SHE SHOULD COME BACK TO YOU.

IF SHE SEES THIS IN THE SKY...



she's waiting in the other town.

she can't fly here.

WHERE IS KURO-CHAN?



THAT'S TRUE.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

RIGHT?



OF COURSE YOU'RE GOING TO GO GET THEM, RIGHT?

I SAW THE FIREWORKS BEHIND THAT MOUNTAIN.



HUHI? IT CAN'T BE...

SOME-THING'S COMING FROM THE SKY.

OH!



I have to take you back or she's going to rip up my body one by one!!

SEN, WHY ARE—

HUH?

so come on, let's go. let's go now. Right now.



SQUEAK

SQUEAK







OH.

What
are you
doing?



?



THE SIZE
OF THIS
COFFIN

About
What?

I WAS
JUST
WONDER-
ING.



I CHOSE
THE SMALL-
EST ONE.

It be-
longed
to her,
right?

BACK
THEN, THAT
WAS ALL
I COULD
CARRY.



Wow,
you've
gotten
big.

LOOK,
IT'S SO
SMALL
NOW.



I DON'T
KNOW.

I GUESS
TIME WILL
TELL.



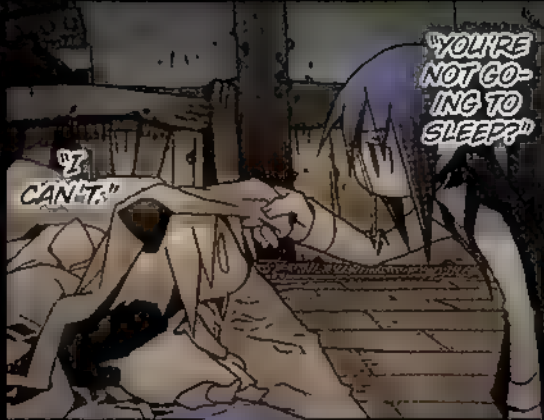
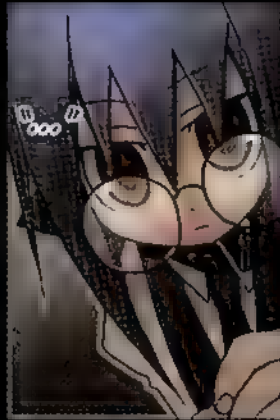
...are you
going to
get rid
of it?

If you
live
longer
and can't
fit in that
coffin...

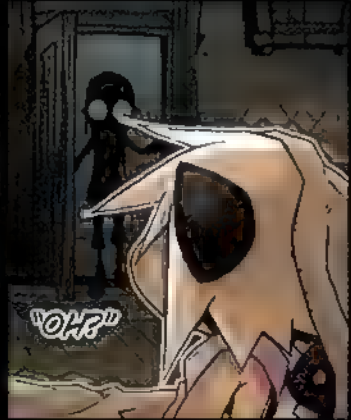


...FOR IT TO
BE DARK WHEN
I OPENED
MY EYES.

I
THOUGHT
IT WAS
NORMAL...



"YOU'RE
NOT GO-
ING TO
SLEEP?"

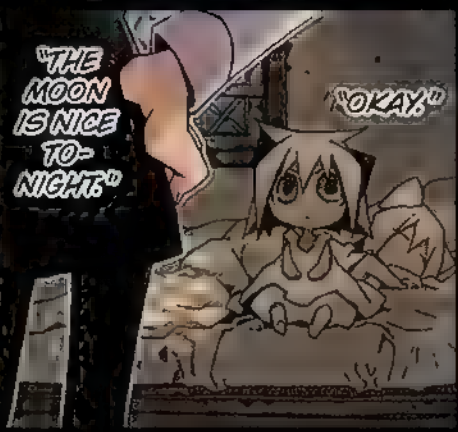


"OH?"



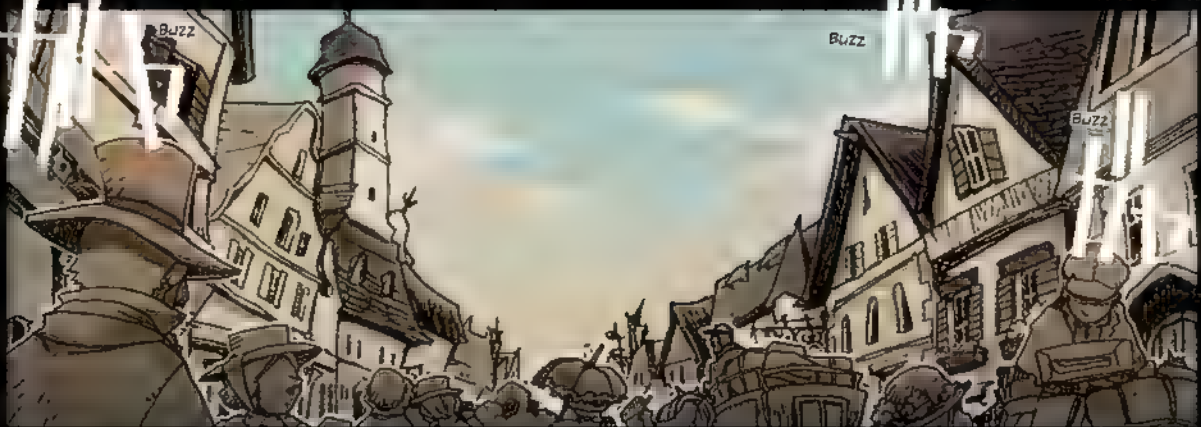
"OUTSIDE."

"IF YOU
CAN'T
SLEEP,
DO YOU
WANT
TO TAKE
A WALK
WITH
ME?"



"THE
MOON
IS NICE
TO-
NIGHT"

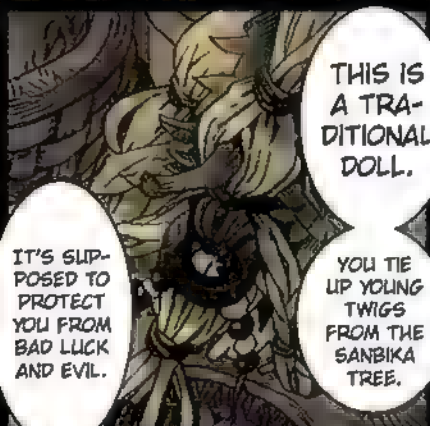
"OKAY."



HOPEFULLY
YOUR TRAV-
ELS WILL
HAVE GOOD
THINGS.



I'LL GIVE
IT TO THE
YOUNG
TRAVEL-
ERS.



THIS IS
A TRA-
DITIONAL
DOLL.

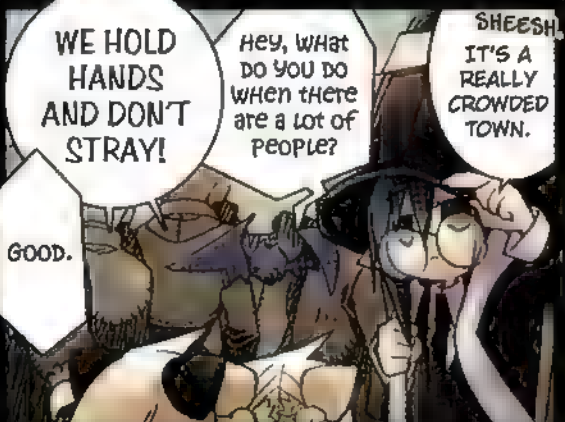
IT'S SUP-
POSED TO
PROTECT
YOU FROM
BAD LUCK
AND EVIL.

YOU TIE
UP YOUNG
TWIGS
FROM THE
SANBIKA
TREE.



OKAY,
LET'S
GO.

IF WE GO TO THE
BRIDGE OVER
THERE, WE CAN
GET AWAY FROM
THE PEOPLE.



WE HOLD
HANDS
AND DON'T
STRAY!

HEY, WHAT
DO YOU DO
WHEN THERE
ARE A LOT OF
PEOPLE?

GOOD.



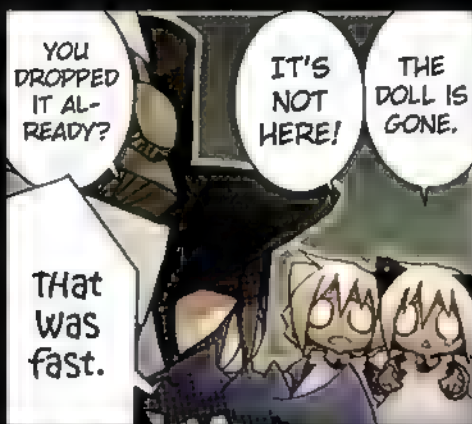
SHEESH.
IT'S A
REALLY
CROWDED
TOWN.

WELL,
IT WARDS
OFF EVIL.

AND A
WEIRD
BODY.

WHAT A
WEIRD
FACE.

IT CAN'T
HAVE
CURLY
HAIR TO
DO THAT.

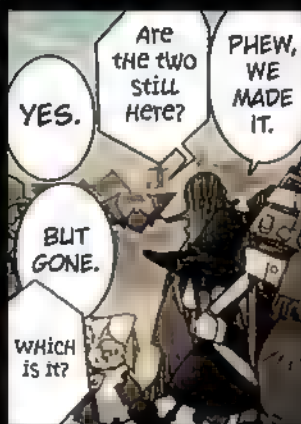


YOU
DROPPED
IT AL-
READY?

IT'S
NOT
HERE!

THE
DOLL IS
GONE.

That
was
fast.



YES.

ARE
THE TWO
STILL
HERE?

PHEW,
WE
MADE
IT.

BUT
GONE.

WHICH
IS IT?



BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ



CHATTER CHATTER

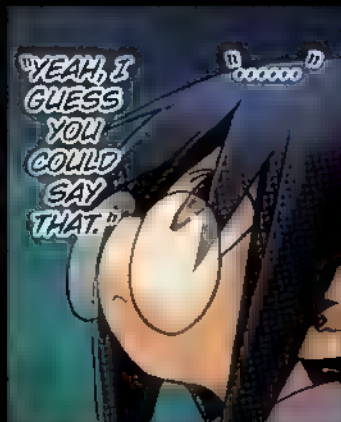


"THERE'S NO ONE AROUND."

"NOPE."

"THERE'S NO SOUND."

"YEAH, IT'S QUIET."



"YEAH, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT."

"....."



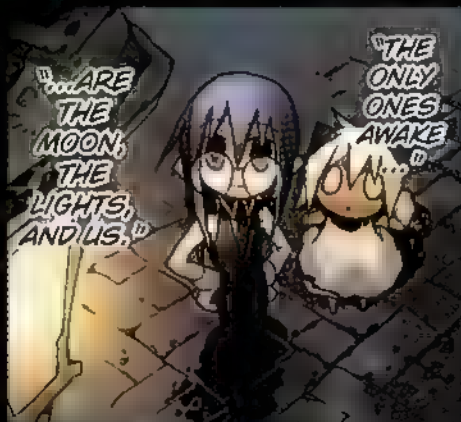
"THE TOWN?"

"THE TOWN IS SLEEPING?"



"THEY'RE SLEEPING, LIKE SANSU."

"WHERE DID EVERYONE GO?"



"...ARE THE MOON, THE LIGHTS, AND US."

"THE ONLY ONES AWAKE..."

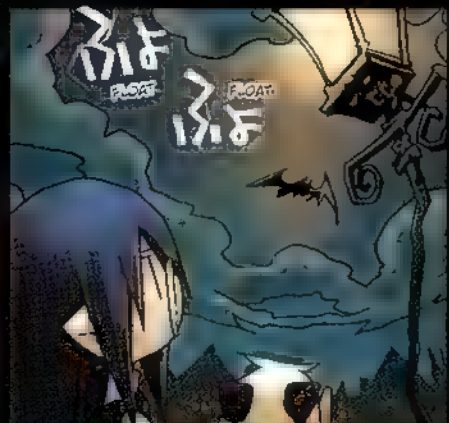


"...EVERYTHING SHUTS DOWN AT NIGHT"

"PEOPLE, STORES, CARRIAGES, STREETS..."



"WELL, MAYBE SOME OTHERS TOO."



"BIF FLOAT"

"BIF FLOAT"



"IT'S SO DARK AND NO ONE'S AROUND."



"AFRAID?"
"AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF NIGHT?"



"OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT."



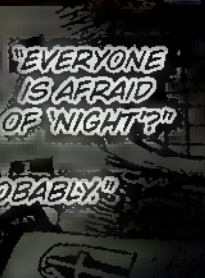
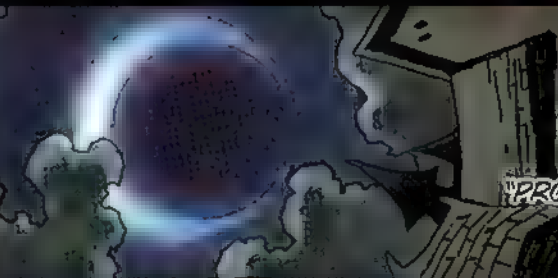
"...AND THERE WAS NO ONE AROUND."



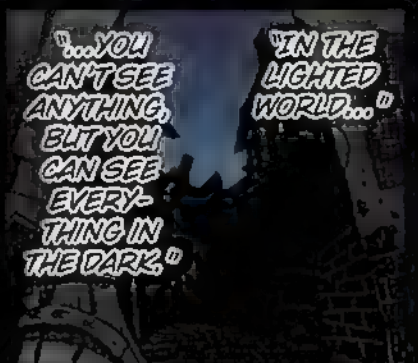
"BUT WE WERE ALWAYS IN THE DARK..."



"EVEN KURO-CHAP?"
"I PREFER DAY-TIME."



"EVERYONE IS AFRAID OF NIGHT?"
"PROBABLY."



"...YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING, BUT YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING IN THE DARK."

"IN THE LIGHTED WORLD..."

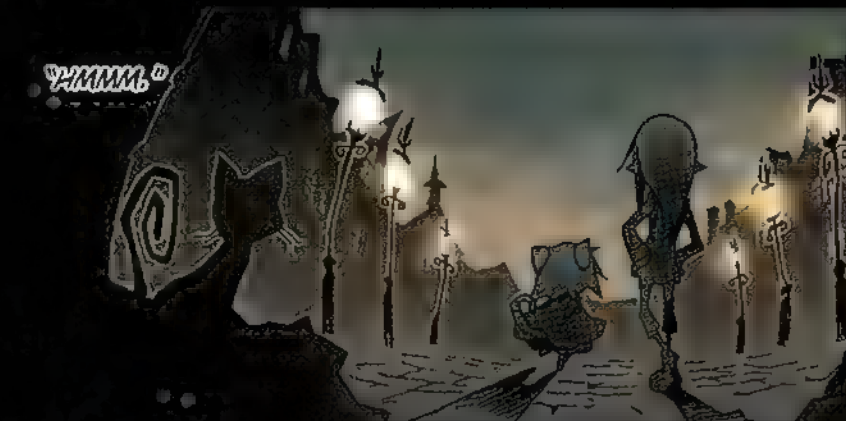


"LIGHT?"

"MAYBE BECAUSE WE KNOW LIGHT."



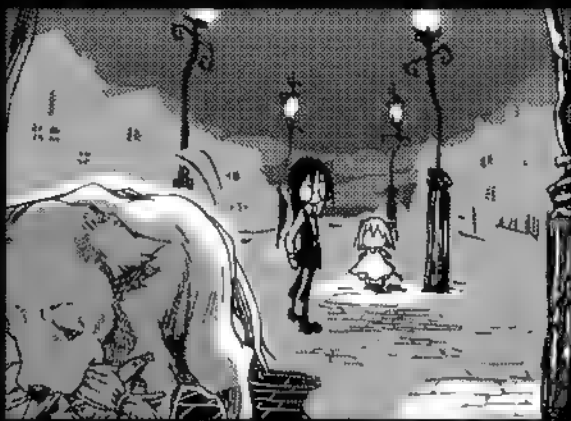
"WHY ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE DARK?"



"HMMM."

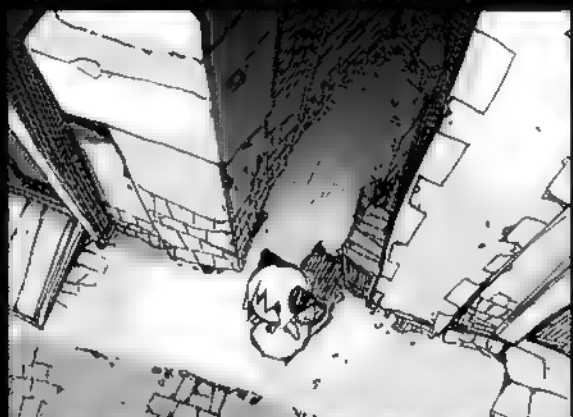
"...SO MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY'RE AFRAID."

"AND KIDS CAN SEE THAT BETTER..."



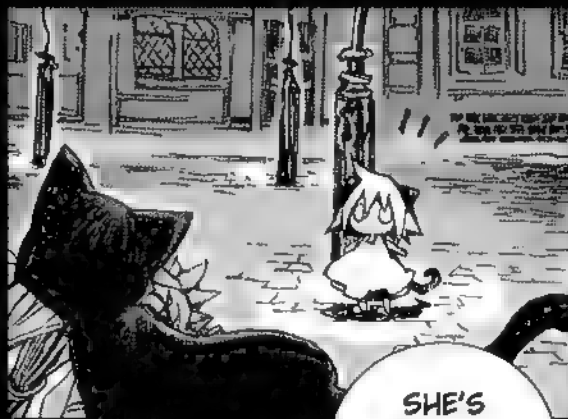
BECAUSE
YOU
DROPPED
ME.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



...AM I?

WHERE...



WAIT!

SHE'S
HOLDING
THAT DOLL
TOO!



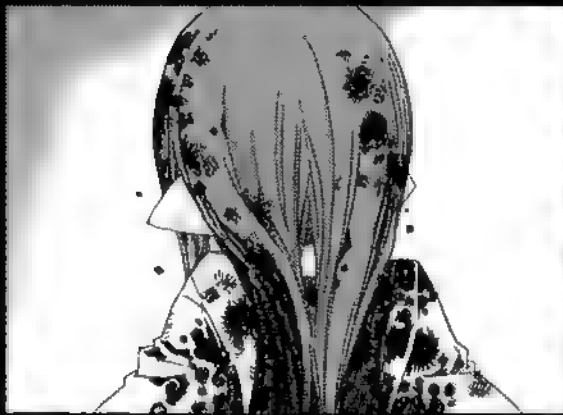
WAIT!

HUH?

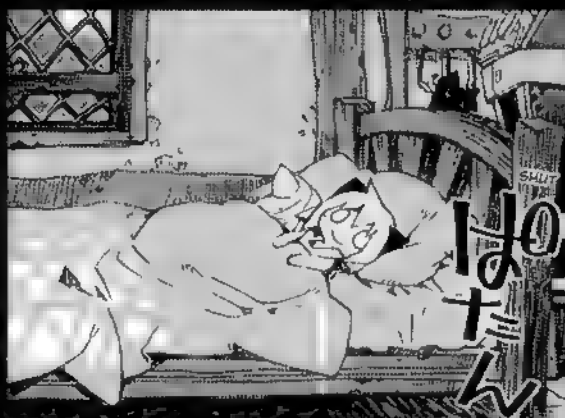


FOUND
THE DOLL.

BUT
ONLY THE
LEGS.











NOT
YET.

AFTER WE
LEAVE THE
TOWN AND
REACH THE
FIELDS.

IT'S
ANOTHER
SUNNY
DAY!!

CAN WE
NOT WEAR
CLOTHES
TODAY?



...WONDER-
ING ABOUT
WHAT TOWN
THE NEXT
ONE WILL
BE!

BUT!

I GET
EXCITED...

REALLY?



ARE
YOU
SAD?

I'M SAD
EVERY
TIME WE
LEAVE
TOWN.

NOW
IS THE
SADDEST
MOMENT.



WE WERE
ONLY HERE
A LITTLE
BIT.

WE'RE
LEAVING
TOWN AL-
READY?



THAT'S
GOOD.

I SEE.



YEAH!
IT'S
FUN!

DO YOU
GIRLS LIKE
TRAVEL-
ING?



WE HAVE
TO PICK UP
THE BAT WITH
A HANGOVER
ON THE WAY
TOO.

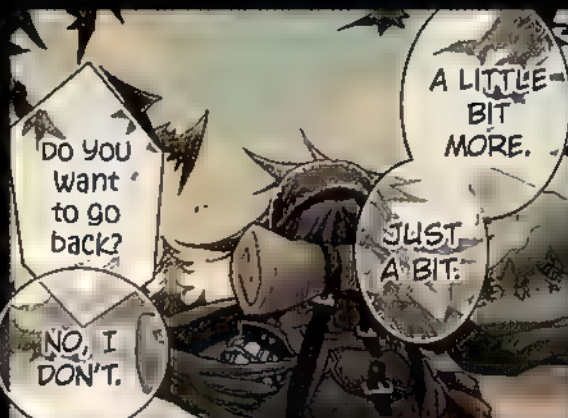
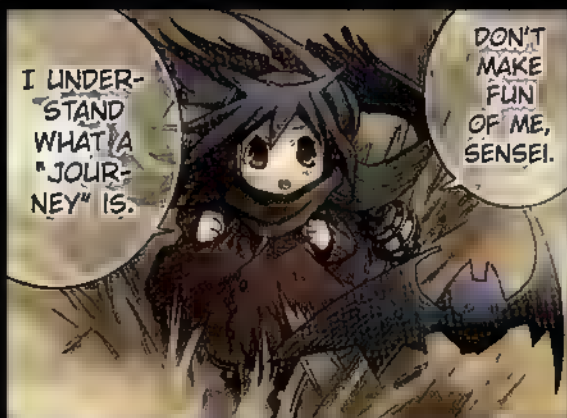
THEN...

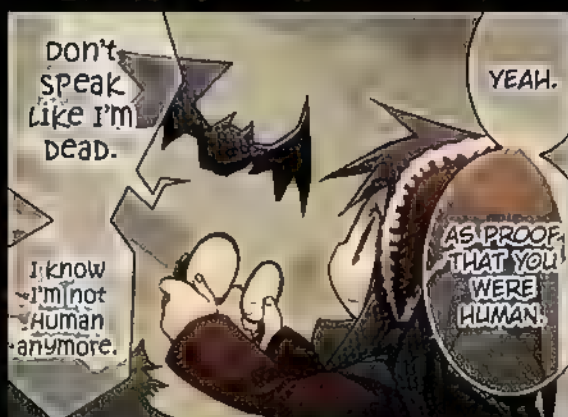
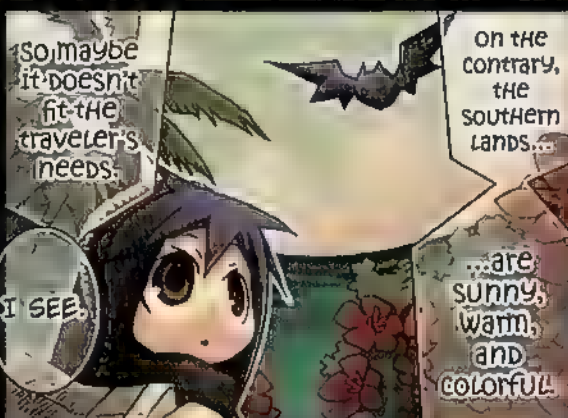
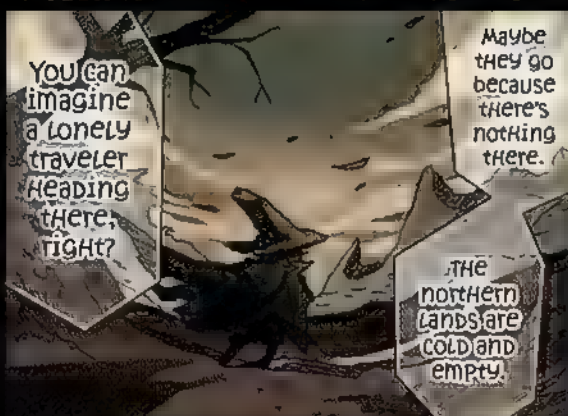
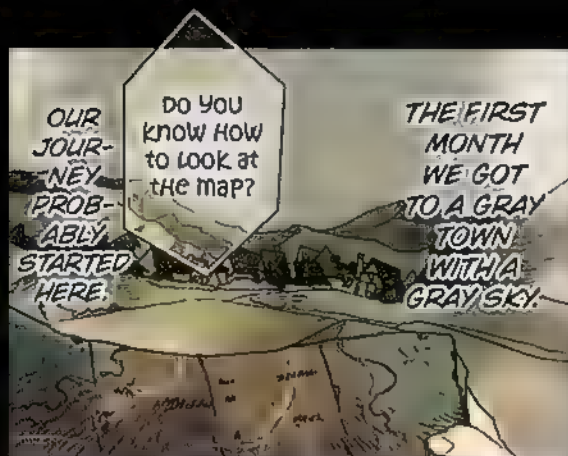
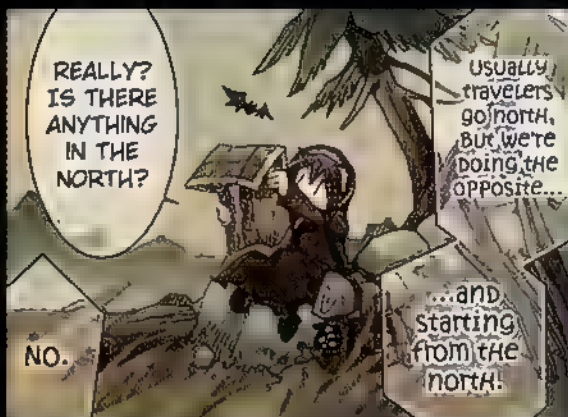
...LET'S
GET
GOING.



The girl snuck out of the mansion at dawn. The place was covered in snow.

She had no idea that her small bit of curiosity and her selfishness would bring such dreadful results.









That's nice.

LOOK!
A MAN
GAVE ME
A KNIFE.



WE FOUND
A POSI-
TIVE SIDE
TO BEING
A KID
TRAVELER.

YOU'RE
NOT HERE
TO RUIN
ERRANDS
FOR YOUR
MOTHER?

OH,
YOU'RE
TRAVEL-
ING!?

THE
SECOND
MONTH
WAS
PAST THE
BORDER
AND IN
A TOWN
WITH HAY
ROOFS.



AND HE
LEARNED
HOW TO
MAKE
MAPLE
SUGAR
THEN.

HE
TAUGHT
ME
TOO.

HE SAID
HE USED
TO TRAVEL
WHEN
HE WAS
YOUNG.

I WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT
WHETHER
SHE WAS
GOING TO
BE OKAY...



WELL,
SHE'S
A
SMALL
GIRL.

BUT
YOU'LL
HAVE TO
HELP ME
MAKE
SUGAR.

YOU CAN
STAY
WITH ME
TONIGHT.

POOR
THING.

HOW
TOUGH.
YOU'RE
SO
YOUNG.

UN-
KNOWN
TOWNS
AND
PEOPLE
WOULD
ACCEPT
HER
EASILY.



HE
TAUGHT
ME HOW
TO USE
THIS
KNIFE,

AND
HOW
TO TIE
THE ROPE.

...BUT SHE'S
STARTING
TO GET
TOUGHER, SO
THE JOURNEY
IS HELPING.



DO YOU
KNOW
WHERE
THE BLACK
WITCH
WENT?

OH
YEAH.

Hey, don't
forget our
objective.



AND MY
POSITION
IS GETTING
MORE DAN-
GEROUS AT
THE SAME
TIME.

HE SAID
SNAKES
AND BATS
ARE DELI-
CIOUS.

ALSO
HOW TO
MAKE
DRIED
MEAT.



EVIL
WOMAN.

POOR
THING.

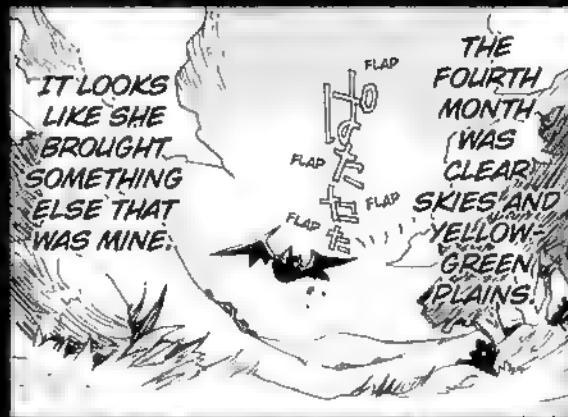
MAYBE
HER FA-
THER RAN
OFF WITH
A WOMAN.

OH, SO
YOU WANT
TO MEET
A WITCH.

THEY
WOULDN'T
TAKE HER
SERIOUSLY.

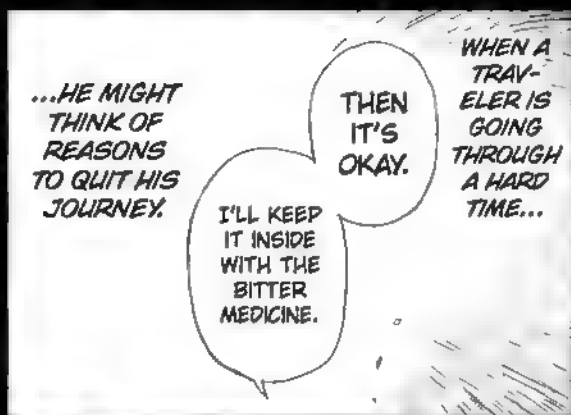
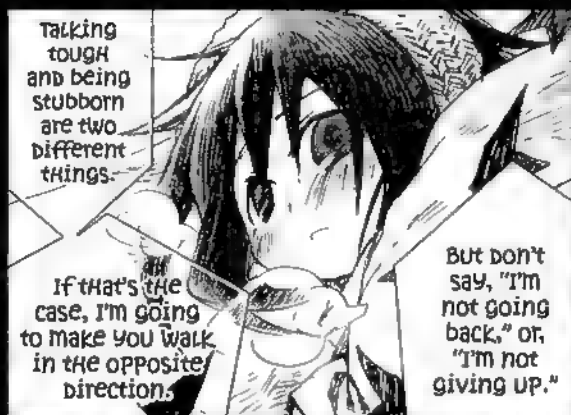
DO YOU
HAVE A
WISH OR
SOME-
THING?

I ALSO
FOUND A
NEGATIVE
SIDE TO
BEING
A KID
TRAVELER.











weird rumors?

A BLACK WITCH? NO, NEVER HEARD OF HER.

BUT I'VE BEEN HEARING WEIRD RUMORS FROM THE EAST.



YOU'RE SO YOUNG.

OH MY... YOU CLIMBED THE MOUNTAIN IN THIS SEASON?

I'M GLAD IT WAS BEFORE THE SNOW CAME.



OH, YOU MUST'VE BEEN COLD.

COME NEAR THE FIRE AND WARM UP.



TH-THANK YOU.

WEAR THESE UNTIL YOURS ARE DRY.

I HAVE SOME CLOTHES FROM WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS YOUNG.



It's been awhile. It's a little old, but it's your favorite white clothes.

You're wearing girly clothes.



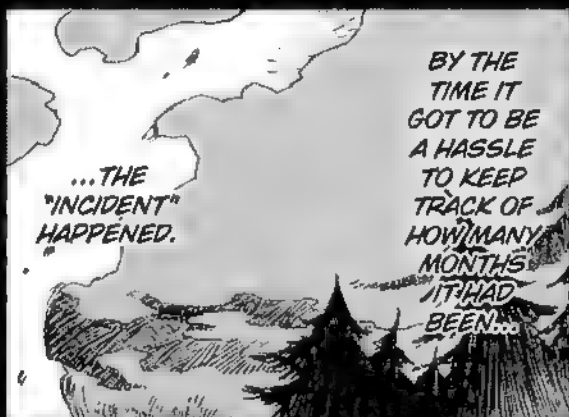
...ON ME ANYMORE.

THESE DON'T LOOK GOOD...



WHAT'S THIS?

...?



...THE
"INCIDENT"
HAPPENED.

BY THE
TIME IT
GOT TO BE
A HASSLE
TO KEEP
TRACK OF
HOW MANY
MONTHS
IT HAD
BEEN...



Hey.

YEAH,
I DO.

BECAUSE
IT'S MY
HOME.

You really
want to go
back Home,
don't you?



I THINK
THE EAST IS
HAVING THE
PENTECOST
SOON?

NOT GOOD.
I WAS ONLY
ABLE TO
SELL TWO
BARRELS
FULL.

HOW'S
IT GO-
ING?



I see.

You've
gotten
stronger.

BUT I'M
NOT GOING
TO STOP
TRAVELING.

THAT'S
WHAT I
DECIDED.



DIDN'T
YOU HEAR
ABOUT
"DEATH
TOWN?"

OH, YOU
SHOULDN'T
GO EAST.



THE
OLD
YOU...

...WOULD
NEVER SAY,
"SORRY,"
OR, "IT
LOOKS
GOOD ON
YOU."

AND
YOU'VE
BECOME
NICER
SINCE WE
STARTED
TRAVEL-
ING.



...AND
CURSED
THE
ENTIRE
TOWN.

I HEAR
THE
DEVIL
CAME!



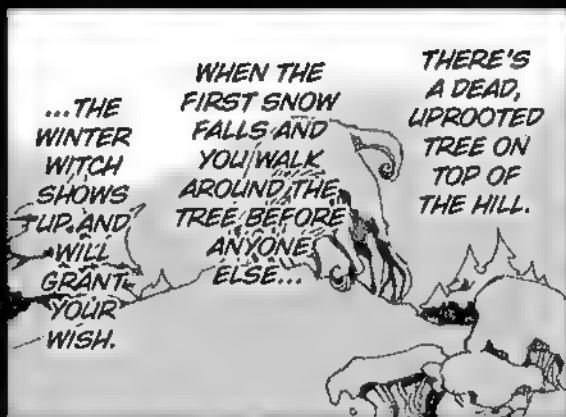
BUT
YOU'RE NOT
THAT SCARY,
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
SMALL.

What? I'll
remember that
when we
return
to our
normal
selves!

I Have
no other
choice,
that's why!

If I act
strict like
before,
you'll cry!





...THE
WINTER
WITCH
SHOWS
UP AND
WILL
GRANT
YOUR
WISH.

WHEN THE
FIRST SNOW
FALLS AND
YOU WALK
AROUND THE
TREE BEFORE
ANYONE
ELSE...

THERE'S
A DEAD,
UPROOTED
TREE ON
TOP OF
THE HILL.



I SAID
I'M NOT
TALKING
TO EITHER
OF YOU
ANYMORE.

LET'S
PLAY.

MO-NEE-
CHAN, WE
CAME TO
PLAY.

YOU
GIRLS
ARE SO
DUMB.



WE HEARD
THAT STORY
AND WENT
TO THE TREE
IMMEDIATELY.

YEAH.

...THE
WINTER
WITCH
REALLY
GAVE YOU
KITTENS?

IT'S TRUE
THAT IT'S
SNOWING
TODAY,
BUT...



OH!
KITTENS!

KIT-
TENS!

TODAY
WE
HAVE
THESE
KIT-
TENS.



WE ONLY
GOT TWO,
SO THERE'S
NONE FOR
YOU.

...AND
ASKED US IF
WE WANTED
SOME
NEWBORN
KITTENS.

...THE LADY
FROM THE
FARM IN
THE SOUTH
CALLED US
OVER...

BUT
ON THE
WAY...



HEE
HEE
HEE.

I WANT
ONE
TOO!

WHERE DID
YOU FIND
THEM? DID
SOMEONE
GIVE THEM
TO YOU?



I'M
REALLY
NOT
TALKING
TO YOU TWO
ANYMORE.

YOU JUST
CAME TO
SHOW IT
OFF.
GET
OUT.

OKAY.

THAT'S
IT.



WINTER
WITCH?

DO YOU
KNOW...

...THE
STORY
ABOUT THE
WINTER
WITCH?



I DIDN'T
WANT THE
TWO TO
FIND ME.

I LEFT
EARLY
THAT
MORNING.



I STARTED
TO THINK
WHAT TO
ASK FOR
WHEN I
SAW THE
WITCH.

THE 12TH
MONTH
IS THE
MONTH
WHEN
THE SUN
DIES.



I WONDER
IF SOME-
ONE BEAT
ME TO IT.

SOME-
ONE'S
THERE.

OH.



ALL THE
CANDY IN
TOWN.

NEW
CLOTHES
FOR MY
DOLL.

BUT IF I
EAT IT ALL,
IT WILL
BE GONE.

NO, I
DON'T WANT
TO WASTE
MY WISH
ON THAT.



A BIG
DOLLHOUSE
IN RED AND
GREEN.

THREE
KITTENS.

I WANT
TO BE AN
ADULT NOW.



THAT'S
NO ONE
FROM
THE
TOWN.

I WAS
SMART,
SO I
REALIZED
IT SOON.



MAYBE I
COULD ASK
FOR A
HUNDRED
WISHES.

AND THAT
WOULD BE
MY WISH.

.....
.....

A WITCH?

SHE
LOOKED
LIKE SHE
CAME
FROM THE
MIDPOINT
BETWEEN
DREAM AND
REALITY.

I DIDN'T
KNOW
HOW TO
DESCRIBE
IT.

THEN I
CAN USE
MAGIC
ANYTIME
I WANT.

YES.
JUST
LIKE
YOU.

...WATCHING
SHADOW
ART MADE
OF SNOW.

IT WAS
LIKE...

...TO
BECOME
LIKE
ME?

YOU
WANT...

SO
THIS IS
WHAT I
SAID.

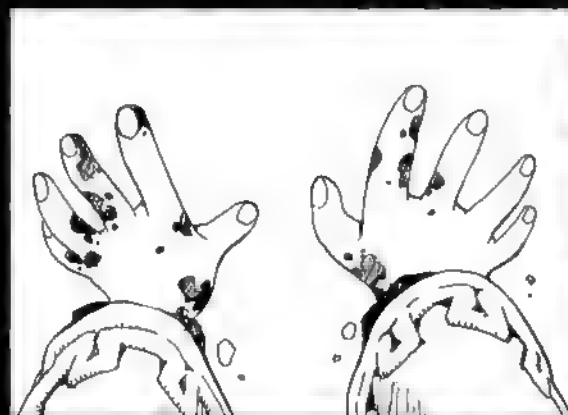
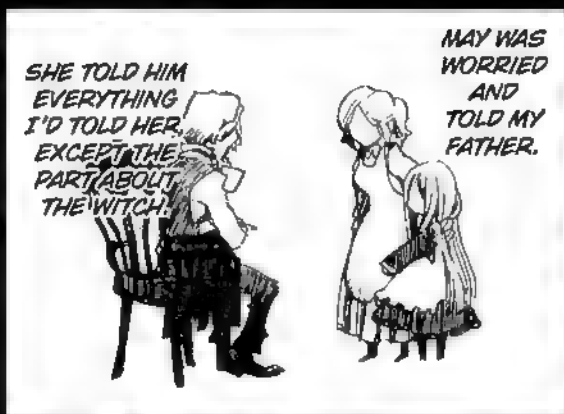
I
THOUGHT
SHE
WAS THE
WITCH AT
ONCE.

FINE.

THEN I'LL
GRANT
YOUR
WISH.

...INTO A
WITCH?

CAN
YOU
MAKE
ME...





...AT THE
LARGE
WINDMILL
AT THE
EDGE OF
TOWN.

THE
TOWNS-
PEOPLE
GATH-
ERED...

THE
FIRST
MONTH
IS WHEN
THE SUN
COMES
BACK.



...AND
MEN IN
WHITE.

...I WAS
INSPECTED
BY MEN IN
BLACK...



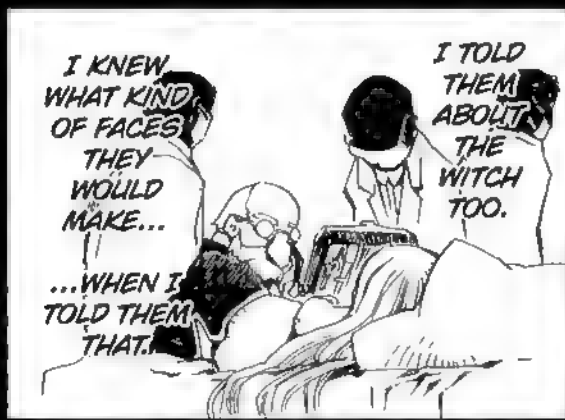
WHY?
I TAKE
BATHS
OFTEN.

CLEAN?

I HEAR
WE'RE
GOING TO
CLEAN OUR
BODIES.

MO-
NEE-
CHAN!

OH!



I KNEW
WHAT KIND
OF FACES
THEY
WOULD
MAKE...

I TOLD
THEM
ABOUT
THE
WITCH
TOO.

...WHEN I
TOLD THEM
THAT.



WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH YOUR
CHEEK?

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH YOUR
HANDS?

HEY,
I'M NOT
TALKING
TO YOU!

HUH?
OH, THE
WITCH...



...WAS
TALKING TO
THE MAN IN
BLACK WHO
LOOKED
MOST IM-
PORTANT.

MY
FATHER...



THAT'S
WHY
YOU'RE
CLEAN-
ING UP.

I SEE.

...I WAS
PLAYING AT
THE FIREPLACE
AND FELL AND
GOT DIRTY!!

I
MEAN
...



I WONDER
WHAT
"CON-
TAGION"
MEANS?

.....



...AND
TOOK AWAY
EVERYONE
SLEEPING.

THE MEN
IN WHITE
CAME
OVER...



IT'S
OBTVIOUS,
BUT MY
BODY
WAS THE
SAME.

THE
SECOND
MONTH IS
WHEN THE
GODDESS
PREPARES
SPRING.



I WONDER
IF THEY'RE
GOING TO
INSPECT
THEM
LIKE THEY
DID ME.



AND SINCE
THEY DIRTIED
MY CLOTHES,
I COULDN'T
WEAR MY
FAVORITE
OUTFITS.

THE BLACK
SPOTS
INCREASED!



...IT'S
WEIRD
TODAY.

BUT...



...I'LL
PLAY WITH
THEM FOR
A BIT.

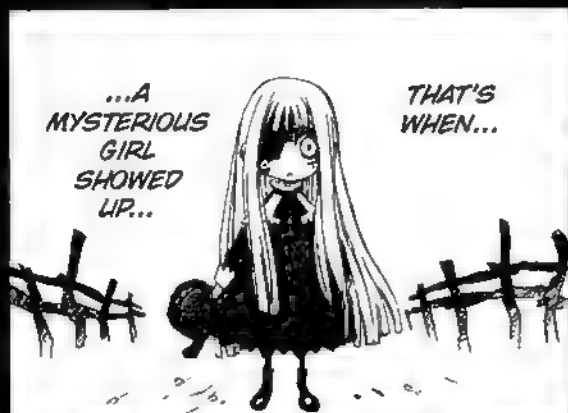
WHEN
THEY
COME
BACK...



...IS
EVERYONE
SLEEP-
ING?

Why...







THOSE ARE EMPTY.

IT'S FOR THE PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T COME BACK.

YOU SAID FUNERAL, SO I THOUGHT YOU MEANT FOR ALL THE COFFINS.



YES.

EVER SINCE TWO DAYS AGO.

ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE IN THIS TOWN?



SORRY, SENSEI.

I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD BE TAKING CARE OF THE DEAD AT A PLACE LIKE THIS.

WE CAME TO A HORRIBLE TOWN.

YUCK.



UM...boo

IT'S A FUNERAL.

...DO I HAVE TO WEAR BLACK?

YOU HAVE TO.



I CAN'T DO MANY THINGS ON MY OWN.

THANKS TO YOU GUYS, I THINK I CAN SEND THEM TO THE OTHER WORLD.



WH— WHAT?

I SEE.

I CAN'T TAKE THIS OFF



AND YOU DO THE OTHER RANDOM PARTS.

...SO YOU'RE THE SAD RELATIVES.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE THE PRIEST...

I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD HAVE TO PLAY HOUSE HERE TOO.



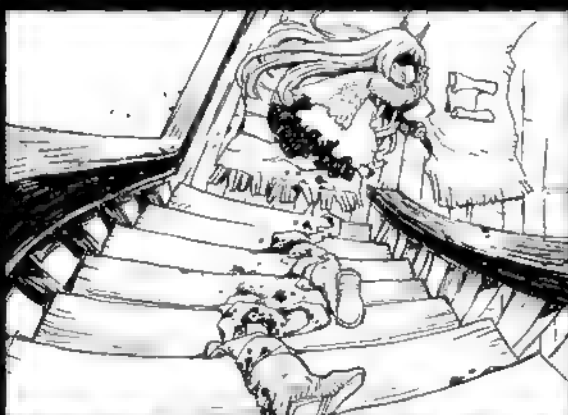
CAN I SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GHOST AT FIRST.

GOOD, YOU'RE NOT TRANSPARENT.

THE BAT WAS TALKING, SO...











HEY.

AREN'T YOU LEAVING YET?

THE FIFTH DAY...



"DIO-RAMA?"

A weird place that doesn't seem real.



Come to think of it, this is our first time visiting a town with no one occupying it.

It's like a diorama.



I SEE.

NOT YET.

THEN I'LL TELL YOU BEFORE YOU GO.



You're pretty fixated on Mo.

I WISH I COULD TAKE MO ALONG.

IF WE FIND THE WITCH, SHE'LL BE OKAY.



IT'S OKAY UP TO MY LEGS.

I DON'T NEED ANY OF THE COFFINS IN TOWN.

BUT I DON'T WANT MY BEAUTIFUL HAIR TO BECOME BLACK.



Friend, eh?

OF COURSE. WE'RE BOTH SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE WITCH.

True. Just from circumstances alone, you girls are like sisters.

AND MO IS MY FRIEND.



SO...

...I WANT YOU TO BE MY COFFIN.



.....

THEN THAT MAKES ME THE OLDER SISTER.

WHAT!? BUT I'M OLDER.

I'm sure she feels the same way.



SO I
THOUGHT
IT WAS AN
"ATTACK."

THEY
SAID IT
WAS A
DISEASE.



...AND
DON'T
FORGET
ABOUT
ME.

PUT ME
INSIDE OF
YOU...



IT'S
WHEN...

THE BLACK
SPOTS ONLY
SHOW UP
AT CERTAIN
TIMES.

...MY FEEL-
INGS ARE
"BLACK."



WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?



I STRUGGLE,
AND MY
ANXIETY
INCREASES.

ONCE A
PART IS
BLACK,
IT STAYS
BLACK.



...WHAT
WILL I
TURN OUT
TO BE?

IF THE
BLACK
SPOTS
INCREASE
AND I
TURN ALL
BLACK...



YOU'RE
REALLY
STUPID.

YOU NEED
ME TO TELL
YOU EVERY-
THING?







NO,
BECAUSE
YOU USE
IT UP TOO
FAST.



WHAT'S
THIS? WHAT
ARE YOU
DRAWING?

I WANT
THAT
ROCK!!



YOU
CHEAP-
SKATE!



I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

I DON'T
KNOW.

I
WONDER
WHY?



BUT SHE
LOOKS
FAMILIAR.

NO,
SOMEONE
DIFFER-
ENT.



WHAT?
YOUR
GUARDIAN
IS BACK?

HUH?

HUH?

KURO-
CHAN IS
FINALLY
BACK!



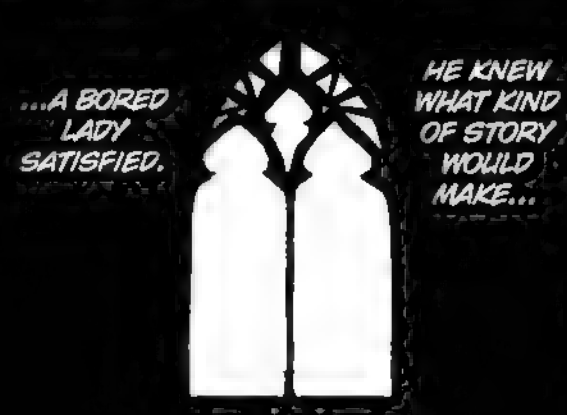
OH!

NIJUKU,
SANJU.











...THERE WAS ANOTHER OUTSIDER WHO CAME INTO THE CASTLE.

AND ONE DAY, AFTER A FEW MONTHS HAD PASSED...



THE PRINCESS WAS VERY SATISFIED.

SHE SAID SHE WILL GIVE YOU A HANDSOME REWARD FOR THE TALE.



OH, THAT IT COMES NEAR, BUT DON'T WORRY.

JUST SCARE IT A BIT, AND IT GOES AWAY.

THERE'S A LARGE BIRD FLYING OVER THERE.



...A BIG CHUNK OF LAND WITH A GREAT VIEW.

THE REWARD WAS...



...THEY'RE THE ONES WHO SHOT PUMPKINS AT ME USING A CANNON!

THAT CASTLE WITH THE POINTY ROOFS...



THERE'S NO POINT IN HAVING LAND. I'M A TRAVELER.

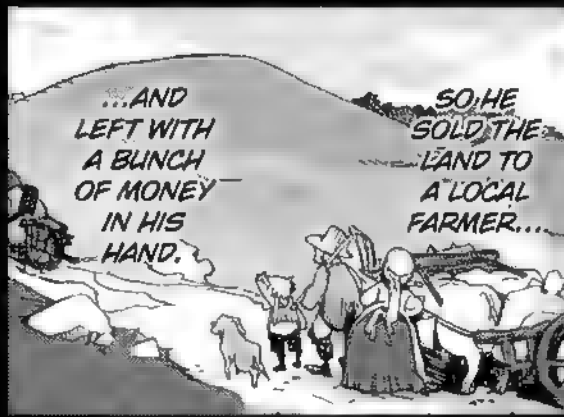
WHAT IS SHE THINKING?

BUT THE OUTSIDER WAS AT A LOSS.



...FLEW AWAY SO SHE WOULDN'T GET INVOLVED.

SO THE TRAVELING AIR DELIVERY SERVICE...



...AND LEFT WITH A BUNCH OF MONEY IN HIS HAND.

SO HE SOLD THE LAND TO A LOCAL FARMER...



THE KING WHO PASSED AWAY A FEW YEARS AGO...

...WAS A GREAT MAN RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND THE PEOPLE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE A COUNTRY COULD BE RUN BY A PRINCESS LIKE THAT.

THERE ARE MANY FIELDS HERE.



...A THIRD OUTSIDER WAS SUMMONED TO THE CASTLE.

...WHY YOU'RE HERE.

I'M SURE YOU KNOW...

AT THE SAME TIME...

WELL, SORT OF.



That's GOOD.

LOTS OF PUMPKIN.

THE FOOD WAS GOOD.

Your last supper was delicious.



UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING IT OFF.

YOU'RE IN FRONT OF THE PRINCESS.

TAKE OFF THAT HAT.



INTERESTING EPICS.

What's with that load of books?

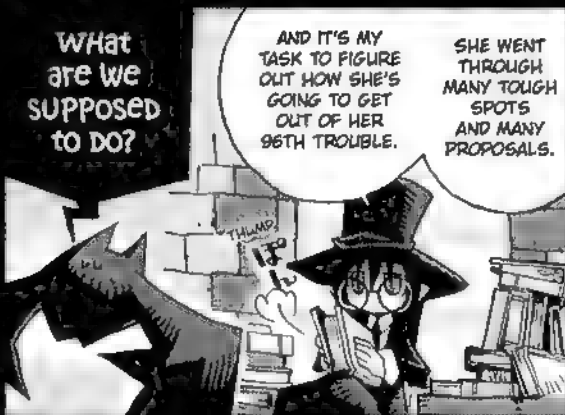
THE TALES THE PRINCESS HEARD BEFORE.



EVEN IF IT IS A BORING TALE...

IT'S OKAY.

I'M SATISFIED AS LONG AS I HEAR AN INTERESTING TALE.



What are we supposed to do?

AND IT'S MY TASK TO FIGURE OUT HOW SHE'S GOING TO GET OUT OF HER 96TH TROUBLE.

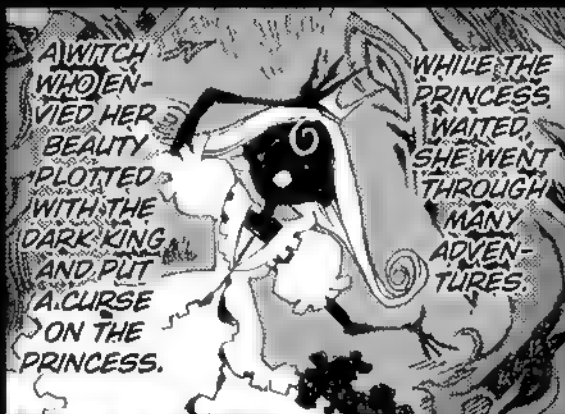
SHE WENT THROUGH MANY TOUGH SPOTS AND MANY PROPOSALS.



...YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR HEAD AND HAT SEPARATING.

BE ASSURED.

CHOP





AND WE
CHOSE
THE MOST
INTERESTING
ONE.

I'VE
NEVER
HEARD
SUCH A
STUPID
STORY!

ARE
YOU
TRYING
TO UPSET
THE
PRIN-
CESS?!



SHE USED
THE LEFTOVER
PIECES TO
DRAW A SUN.

THEN THE
SKY TURNED
WARM AND A
CAT FLEW IN.



BUT NO
MATTER HOW
FANCY WE
MAKE THE
SETTING...

...IT WILL
BE THE
SAME IF THE
CHARACTER
IS THE
SAME.

WE WERE
TOLD TO MAKE
A TALE FEATURING THE
PRINCESS.



THE WITCH,
PRINCE, KURO-
CHAN, AND THE
PROFESSOR
CAME...

...AND EVERY-
ONE WAS HAPPY.
THEY ALL SANG
A SONG.



THAT'S
THE ONLY
STORY
I COULD
COME UP
WITH.

...AND
CHOPPED
OFF HEADS
WHEN THINGS
DIDN'T GO
HER WAY.

THAT'S WHY
SHE USED
HER MEN
AS SHE
PLEASED...



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT THESE
KIDS ARE
SAYING.

ROUND,
ROUND,
IT MAKES
MY TUMMY
FULL.

TRANSLATE.

YES.



ARREST
THESE
PEO-
PLE!!

In my
ending it
was all a
dream.

My
story
was
better
than
yours.



They were
awed by the
royal dinner
they had
last night.

I THINK
THEY'RE
SINGING A
SONG ABOUT
PUMPKINS.

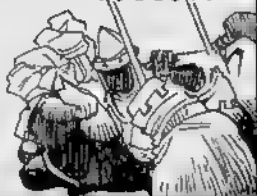
SFX: PUMPKINS, ROUND PUMPKINS.



THE BIG
"SECRET"
OF THE
GUIL-
LOTINE.



AND THAT
IS WHEN
HER MEN
BOWED
AND CON-
FESSED.



BUT...

NOW...

THE THIRD
OUTSIDER
RECEIVED
NOTHING
AND GAVE
NOTHING.



...IT'S TIME
FOR ME TO
GO TO THE
GUILLOTINE.

PLEASE
DON'T,
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS.

IT'S
ENOUGH TO
ACKNOW-
LEDGE THE
MISTAKES
YOU
MADE.

YOU JUST
NEED TO
START
OVER FROM
HERE.



...SHE
SAID THIS
AND AND
SMILED.

WELL,
THEN...

...IT WAS
REALLY
A STUPID
STORY,
AFTER
ALL..

WHEN THE
PRINCESS
HEARD
THAT...



THAT'S
ANOTHER
TALE

WE DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
BECAME
OF THE
PRINCESS.



...FOODS
MADE WITH
PUMPKIN
DISAPPEARED
FROM THE
ROYAL DIN-
NER TABLE.

BUT EVER
SINCE THE
GUILLOTINE
WENT OUT
OF USE...



FROM THE
TIME THE
KING PASSED
AWAY...

...WE'VE
BEEN
KEEPING
A BIG
SECRET.

THEN
WE NEED
TO BE
PUNISHED
TOO.





THANK YOU FOR READING SHOULDER-A-COFFIN KURO VOLUME 2.
I'LL BE HAPPY IF I CAN SEE YOU IN THE NEXT VOLUME TOO.

SATOKO KIYUDUKI

TRANSLATION NOTES

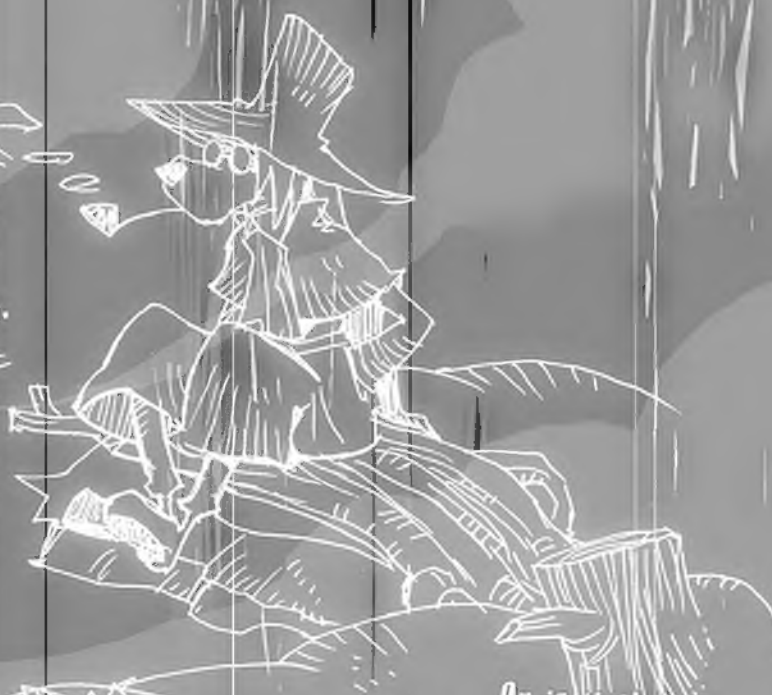
Page 56

Nijuku and Sanju

Nijuku and Sanju are shortened terms for the numbers "twenty-nine" (*nijuuku*) and "thirty" (*sanjuu*) in Japanese. In drawings, the number "3" looks like an ear.



My rival
is that guy
who rides the
flying machine
wearing a
tuxedo cape.



Kuro-chan,
is that the
famous
Detective
with the
little gray
cells?

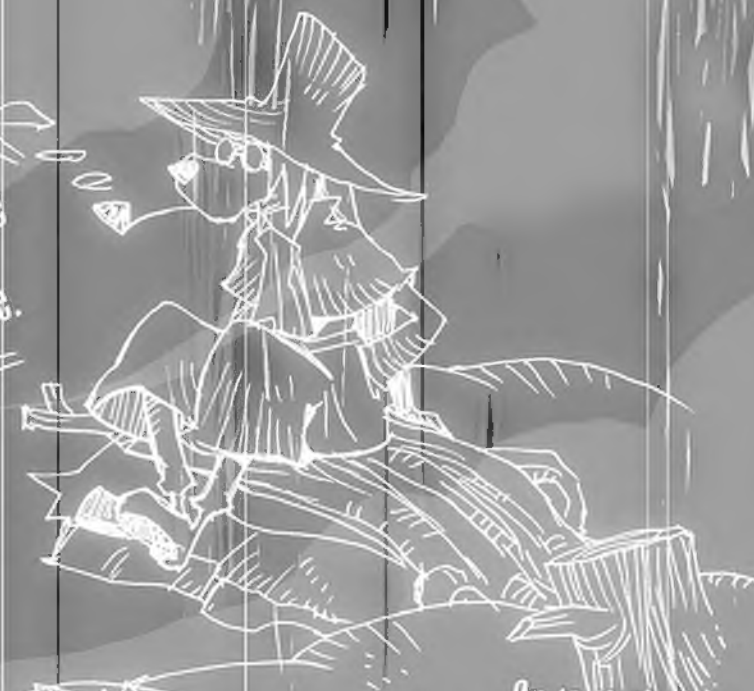
Or is it the
adventurer who can't
buy dreams, even
with a million
dollars?

You know,
out of the
entire volume,
the editor hates
dealing with
this page most.





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Shoulder-a-Coffin Kuro, Satoko Kiyuduki

SHOULDER-A-COFFIN KURO 2

SATOKO KIYUDUKI

Translation: Satsuki Yamashita Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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